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Maduro's failings do not justify U.S. intervention

Trump must step back from his Venezuela plan

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DELHI BLAST CASE

NIA searches houses of 3 arrested men in J&K

NEWS » PAGE 8

Smartphone makers told to pre-install Sanchar Saathi

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Monday ordered smartphone manufacturers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app on new devices sold from March 2026, and to make sure "that [the app's] functionalities are not disabled or restricted".

The app will be used to "verify authenticity of IMEIs used in mobile devices", the order said.

It is unclear if the app will have access to the IMEI number of devices it is pre-installed on, or if users will have to input the hardware identifier on their own.

The app can be used to report scam calls, identify SIM cards registered under a person's name, and remotely disable phones if they are stolen.

FULL REPORT ON
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SC gives CBI free hand to stop 'digital arrest' scams

It says every type of scam defrauding victims, especially senior citizens, needs to be investigated; court directly ordering CBI, overriding state consent, to conduct probe is an extraordinary step

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday tasked the Central Bureau of Investigation with cracking down on 'digital arrest' scammers and their associates, giving the agency a "free hand" to launch an anti-corruption probe into bankers involved in the opening of mule accounts linked to cybercrimes.

A Bench of the Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi found "enough was enough", and held that 'digital arrest' scams required the immediate attention of the CBI. A note provided by the Centre in the court showed that ₹3,000 crore had already been scammed by fraudsters from victims, mostly drawn from the elderly population, through 'digital arrests'.

"There is no second opinion that every type of cyberscam defrauding victims, especially senior citizens, is required to be investigated. The CBI shall investigate first the digital arrest scams. Other types of cyberscams [fraudulent investments, promise of part-time jobs] can come in the second and third stages," the court observed in the order. The court directly ordering the CBI, overriding state consent, to conduct a pan-India probe and hunt down scammers is an extraordinary step. It cannot order the CBI, except when compelled by exceptional circumstances.

Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, and Tripura have been directed to accord consent to the CBI under Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act to investigate 'digital arrest' cases under the Information Technology Act, 2000 in their jurisdictions.

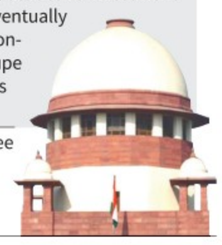
CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Tough action

The Supreme Court has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to crack down on 'digital arrest' scammers

THREE CATEGORIES OF CYBER SCAMS IDENTIFIED BY SC

- **Digital arrests:** Victims are made to believe government authorities are entitled to their hard-earned money, and they are subjected to coercive acts of extortion
- **Investment scams:** Victims are lured by attractive investment schemes to deposit large amounts, but eventually are duped of the money. The fraudsters continue to coin different terminologies to dupe victims. In some of the cases, the money is sought in the name of 'advance tax'
- **Part-time jobs:** Victims are paid for 'free tasks' like positive reviews or watching YouTube. They are later made to pay huge amounts for 'premium tasks'



NEARBY

Round two of breakfast meeting today

BENGALURU
After both leaders agreed to refrain from making statements on the power-sharing issue, Round Two of breakfast meeting between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar is to be held on Tuesday. » PAGE 4

Soon, digital e-stamping will be mandatory

BENGALURU
More than two decades after the e-stamp facility was launched, Karnataka will soon replace it with mandatory digital e-stamping for registerable and non-registerable documents.

» PAGE 4

ED issues notice to Kerala CM in KIIFB masala bond probe

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has slapped a show-cause notice on Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in connection with alleged Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violations linked to the masala bond issued by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board. Former Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac and KIIFB CEO Officer K.M. Abraham also received notices.

The ED said it issued the notices on November 12 for the contravention of FEMA provisions and master direction of the Reserve Bank of India "by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board and its authorities" amounting to ₹466.91 crore. According to the notices, the charge is that ₹466.91 crorewas used to purchase land. This action was "specifically prohibited", the ED said.

The KIIFB had floated 'masala bond' in the London Stock Exchange and the Singapore stock exchange to raise funds to the tune of ₹2,672.8 crore.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 5

Chennai drenched

Cyclone impact: Chennai and nearby districts continued to receive steady downpour on Monday due to the remnants of the now weakened Cyclone Ditwah. Rain led to waterlogging and traffic congestion in many areas of the Tamil Nadu capital. R. RAGU

Don't go ahead with recruitment based on SC/ST Act for now: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a set back to the State government, the High Court of Karnataka has restrained it from issuing any notification further for recruitment to any posts based on the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) (Reservation of Seats in Education Institutions and Appointments of Posts and Services under the State) Act, 2022, which has increased reservation for SCs/STs till further orders.

However, the court said the government may continue the process of recruitment to the posts based on the notifications issued already as per increased reservation for SCs/STs prior to November 19, 2025.

Also, the court made it clear that any appointment made, based on the ongoing recruitment process, shall be subject to the final outcome of the present petitions.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the interim order on November 27 acting on the two PIL petitions.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

Centre moves Bills for pan masala cess and higher duties on tobacco products

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Monday introduced a Bill in Parliament seeking to raise the excise duty on tobacco products, and another legislation targeting the manufacture of pan masala.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the two Bills – The Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025 and the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 – amid Opposition sloganeering. The Bills are aimed at replacing the revenue from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation cess on tobacco products, which will be discontinued soon. The Health Security se National Security Cess also proposes to augment funding for health and national security through levy of cess on "machines installed, or other processes undertaken in the manufacture of pan masala".

Grand start: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaking on the first day of the Winter Session of Parliament on Monday. PTI

Launched in 2017

The GST compensation cess was introduced in 2017 during the launch of the GST system. The proceeds were to be used to compensate States for any losses they faced due to the implementation of GST for a period of five years. During the COVID-19 pandemic years of 2020-21 and 2021-22, the proceeds from this cess fell short of the compensation requirement, leading to the Centre borrowing money to compensate the States.

The compensation cess on tobacco products is to be discontinued once the government pays back interest on these loans.

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Amid uproar, Lok Sabha passes Manipur GST Bill

NEW DELHI
The Lok Sabha, on the first day of the Winter Session on Monday, passed a Bill to replace an Ordinance which implemented reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in Manipur, amid disruptions and protests by the Opposition parties. » PAGE 9

Growth in industrial production slips to a 14-month low of 0.4% in October

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Growth in industrial activity slowed to a 14-month low of 0.4% in October 2025, pulled down by contractions in the electricity and consumer non-durables sector, as well as relatively slow growth in the manufacturing sector.

Data on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed that growth in the index was last lower than the latest figures in August 2024, when it had come in at 0%.

The electricity sector contracted 6.9% in October 2025, compared with a growth of 2% in October last year. The consumer non-durables sector contracted 4.4% compared with a growth of 2.8% over the same period.

"Consumer goods registered negative growth, and the inventory factor would have played out," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda said.

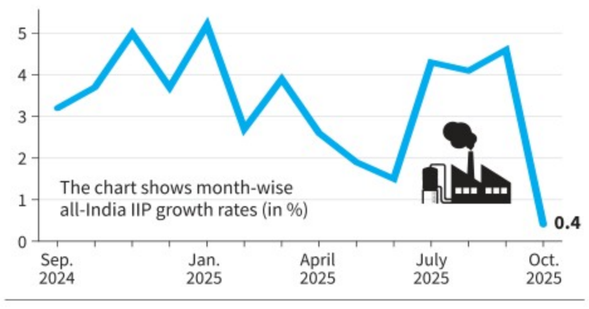
"It was -0.5% for durables and -4.4% for non-durables. This would need to be monitored for the next two months where traction in a positive direction should be seen." he added.

The mining and quarrying sector contracted 1.8% in October, with the sector contracting in six out of the last seven months. The manufacturing sector grew at a nearly two-year low of 1.8%, down from 4.4% in October last year.

The infrastructure and construction goods sector grew by 7.1% in October, up from 4.7% in October last year. However, this was lower than the double-digit growth the sector has been seeing in the July-September 2025 quarter.

A steep fall

Industrial activity was pulled down by contractions in the electricity and consumer non-durables sectors in October



GST mop-up slips to ₹1.7 lakh crore in November

NEW DELHI
The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections slipped to a year-low of ₹1.70 lakh crore in November, growing at a meagre 0.7% year-on-year on a base lowered by the exclusion of proceeds from cess on sin and luxury goods, according to official data. » PAGE 11

Matches are won by those who make better decisions

Coach Suresh Kumar, with over 30 years' experience, feels this crucial aspect rarely gets discussed as part of a player's systematic training

Kamesh Srinivasan

Indian tennis' growth has been slow and it is struggling to have impressive numbers. The best ranked men's singles player is Sumit Nagal at 277. The next best is Aryan Shah at 415. Among women, Sahaja Yamalapalli and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty are the top-two at 306 and 401 respectively.

There was a rare ray of hope in mid-September when Dhakshineswar Suresh defied his 600-plus rank (629) to help India beat Switzerland in the Davis Cup by upsetting the then 155th-ranked Jerome Kym in straight sets in the opening rubber in Biel.

In a vast country that is growing strong across many sports disciplines, the prospect of generating a string of world-class singles players who can regularly compete in the Grand Slams looks a distant dream.

Suresh Kumar Sonachalam, a seasoned coach with over 30 years' experience, has a few ideas to improve the situation, some of which find a place in his book 'The Invisible Opponent'.

In fact, in the recent Fenesta National Tennis Championship in Delhi, it was Suresh's students, Manish Sureshkumar and Keerthivassan Suresh, who competed in the men's final.

"It was a proud and surreal moment, having two of my students compete in the National final," said Suresh, the Director of Chennai Tennis Centre. "It was a culmination of years of hard work by both of them, my academy partner R. Balaji and our team of coaches and trainers.

"In a country with countless academies and fierce competition, it validates our system and proves that our focused, player-centric approach yields results. The pride is not just in the victory, but in the quality of tennis, the grit and the sportsmanship they displayed," added Suresh.

Tamil Nadu has a history of producing top-notch players. In fact, last year's men's titlist at the Nationals was Rethin Pranav, a junior player from the State, who entered the draw as a lucky loser.

"It was a testament to Rethin's incredible mental resilience. It is a quality we tirelessly work on. Tamil Nadu has a strong competitive structure at the junior level, apart from a deep-rooted tennis culture and a growing number of coaches who are passionate about developing home-grown talent.

"We focus on building a solid technical, mental, physical and tactical foundation from a young age, allowing players to transition smoothly into the senior ranks," observed Suresh.

The growth of Manish and Keerthivassan has impressed Suresh.

"Manish is a consummate professional. His handling of pressure and his ability to focus intensely throughout every match is exemplary. He has a complete game, but to propel himself to the next international stage, the key will be to be more relaxed in matches and feel free to go for his shots and not be too conservative," Suresh opined.

Keerthivassan's run to the final from the qualifying event may have been a surprise for many, but Suresh said that the boy's work ethic had spurred the team to have faith in his abilities.

"He has already beaten many good players. I was not surprised by his fight, but I was especially happy with his physical and mental stamina. To handle long, gruelling matches and come back strong shows a champion's spirit.

"We are making some changes to his game to make him more effective when he moves to the higher levels. He weighs only 56 kilograms. We expect him to build up over the next two years, and only then will he be able to realise his potential," stressed Suresh.

The Indian doubles players now compete regularly at the Slams and the other big events. But Suresh felt that singles players should also be exposed to a dose of doubles to speed up their growth as competitors.

"Doubles is extremely important for the growth of a tennis player," Suresh said. "Manish lost a close doubles final in the National championship, and the experience was invaluable. Doubles sharpens net play, return of serve and reflexes. It teaches players the art of handling pressure in crucial, short-point situations and improves their tactical awareness.

"It is physically demanding, but the benefits to a player's overall singles game are immense. In my opinion, it is non-negotiable for complete development."

When young, Suresh was adept at cricket, hockey and badminton, but was consumed by tennis when his father presented him with a racquet. He did a five-year graduation course in Law, and competed in tennis at the National level, reaching No. 11 in the country. He was in the Tamil Nadu top-three for several years.

Coaching became part of his resume when he and his close friend V.N. Prem Prakash were offered a centre to run by their coach B.N. Swamy. Suresh, 59, has completed ITF's High Performance Course in Spain, and regularly presents papers in global conferences to share his knowledge.

He has a holistic vision of not just

> It was a proud and surreal moment, having two of my students (Manish and Keerthivassan) compete in the National final
>
> **SURESH KUMAR SONACHALAM**
> Director, Chennai Tennis Centre

making champions on court but developing well-rounded individuals through tennis. He also makes it a point to keep the game affordable so that "middle-class children can continue playing without feeling the pinch".

At the moment, Suresh is focused on bringing out the first in a series of books that aim to lend clarity on how to structure one's game and the pathway for a player to follow.

"A practice champion falls apart in matches," said Suresh. "A technically proficient junior can't close out sets. An adult player struggles despite hours of practice. The common diagnosis – not mentally tough. But the problem is poor decision-making.

"Tennis matches are won by the player who makes better decisions under pressure, who recognises situations accurately, chooses appropriate responses, commits fully to those choices and adapts when needed."

Suresh pointed out that the most crucial aspect of decision-making rarely gets discussed as part of a player's systematic training.

"Players spend thousands of hours developing technique and fitness while the skill that determines match outcomes – decision-making – is assumed to develop automatically through experience," he noted.

Suresh is equally of the belief that a structured competition pathway is an urgent need for Indian tennis. According to him, the country needs to host at least 30 ITF-level tournaments each for men and women every year.

"If we can run these 30 weeks of tournaments for the next three to four years, we are sure to have at least 15 players ranked in the top-400. If we then conduct seven to 10 Challenger events, then close to 20 players will benefit. This would help about 10 players to get into the top-200 rank in the next two or three years," he said.

Despite many academies and good coaches across India, the European and American systems – also expensive – are still looked at as superior.

"This is a perception issue, rooted in history. While European and American academies have their merits, we now have the infrastructure and expertise in India. The gap is shrinking. The change will come when our players, trained in India, start breaking into the top levels of the world consistently. Success will build faith," Suresh stated.

One way of strengthening the Indian coaching ecosystem would be to make coaches' education a continuous process rather than a one-time certification, he explained.

"Most of the candidates who attend the coaches' course are aiming only for the certification in order to get jobs, and not looking to improve their knowledge. Encouraging a culture of knowledge-sharing among coaches and integrating the latest sports science into our curriculum are crucial steps. We need to professionalise coaching as a career to attract and retain the best minds.

"It is about creating a system that produces a continuous generation of world-class players and not one-off champions. They will also be great ambassadors for the sport and our country," he signed off.

THE GIST

- Adept at cricket, hockey and badminton when young, Suresh was consumed by tennis when his father presented him with a racquet. A Law graduate, Suresh has also completed ITF's High Performance Course in Spain
- He feels doubles is extremely important for the all-round growth of a tennis player because it sharpens net play, return of serve and reflexes. It also teaches the art of handling pressure in crucial, short-point situations
- According to Suresh, one way of strengthening the Indian coaching ecosystem would be to make coaches' education a continuous process rather than a one-time certification

> Keerthivassan has already beaten many good players. I was not surprised by his fight, but especially happy with his physical and mental stamina

Third edition of BLR Hubba to begin on January 16

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City-based civic and cultural platform UnboxingBLR (UBLR) has announced three major initiatives aimed at strengthening Bengaluru's cultural vibrancy, technological legacy, and climate-focused innovation ecosystem.

The announcements include the launch of BLR Hubba 2026, India's first start-up and tech museum, and an expanded edition of the Namma Bengaluru Challenge start-up accelerator.

Global cultural map

The third edition of the BLR Hubba, scheduled for January 16 to 25, is set to be the festival's most ambitious instalment yet. Aiming to position Bengaluru on the global cultural map, the 10-day event will feature over 250 performances across more than 12 genres, including international acts from Japan and Malaysia and a special appearance by guitar legend Marty Friedman.

With 80% new programming across 20 venues, the festival seeks to transform public spaces into accessible cultural zones.

The UBLR also unveiled the Start-up and Tech Museum plan, a first-of-its-kind initiative, which will be developed in partnership with the Department of Electronics, IT/BT. Set within the repurposed NGEF campus, the museum will chronicle Bengaluru's evolution into India's technology capital.

'Rich past'

"It will be an inspiration, connecting our rich past with a future of limitless possibilities," said UBLR co-founder Prashanth Prakash.

The Namma Bengaluru Challenge returns in 2026 with a sharper focus on climate solutions, offering grants of ₹25 lakh each to five winning start-ups. With over 600 entries, the challenge will address urban issues including air pollution, waste, water, and sanitation.

As mercury level drops, veggie prices go through the roof

Excessive rains have damaged tomato crop in Kolar belt, the largest producer of the vegetable in South India, says a trader

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the mercury level dips in Bengaluru, vegetable prices have become too hot to handle. Tomatoes and drumsticks seem to be the priciest of the lot.

The price of tomatoes has shot up to ₹80 per kilo, and industry insiders said it would not be a surprise if it breached the ₹100 per kg mark. A kilo of drumsticks that used to be sold in the range of ₹200 was now being sold at ₹350 due to extreme shortage of the vegetable in the market.

'There is a severe scarcity of drumsticks in the market, as there is no arrival of the vegetable from Gujarat and Rajasthan.' FILE PHOTO

"Excessive rains have damaged tomato crop in the Kolar belt, the largest producer of tomatoes in South India. While the arrivals at Kolar APMC have reduced by almost 50%, there has been extensive crop damage in Maharashtra, another big producer. Tomatoes from Kolar are also being sent to Maharashtra, from where it is supplied across North India. This has led to inflated prices," explained Trimurti, a trader at Kolar APMC.

Meanwhile, with no arrivals from Gujarat and Rajasthan, there is a severe scarcity of drumsticks in the market. "What little is coming, is coming from Tamil Nadu. The price has shot up to ₹350. But it is not a staple vegetable, and people are not buying it at such high prices," said a procurement officer for a reputed grocery chain in Bengaluru.

On the other hand, the prices of onions have crashed. "Rains and moisture in the air have made the onions wet, which leads to early spoiling and sprouting," said Ravi Shankar, an onion trader at Yeshwantpur APMC yard.

"Farmers in Challakere and Maharashtra had harvested the crop and stored it expecting a good price. These onions are relatively better, but they are also infested by fungus due to the dampness. But farmers in Belagavi and Bagalkot don't seem to have harvested it at the right time. They have become very wet and spoilt," he said.

While good quality onions have a good rate in the range of ₹25 to ₹35, they account for less than 30% of onions in the market. The rest are wet onions and were being traded at as low as ₹5 to ₹10 in the wholesale market.

"Even if you are ready to pay a good price, good quality onions are hard to get," Mr. Shankar said.

Usually, vegetable prices are relatively on the higher side during winters in Bengaluru. But this is usually balanced by the flood of avarekai this season but that has also not happened this season. "By the first week of December, avarekai should have taken over the markets, and this will have lead to fall in demand for other vegetables, bringing their prices down. Since, avarekai is also hit this year, the prices of other vegetables are also high," the procurement official of a retail grocery chain said.

While the price of beans is around ₹80 to ₹110, the prices of most other vegetables are also on the higher side, and they are expected to climb down only with avarekai taking over.

Price list

Prices per kg	
Tomato	₹60-₹80
Onion	₹15-₹30
Potato	₹35-₹40
Garlic	₹120-₹140
Avarekai	₹60-₹80
Drumstick	₹350-₹400
Beans	₹80-₹110
Carrot	₹60-₹70
Radish	₹50-₹55
Brinjal	₹50-₹55
Beetroot	₹30
Ladies' fingers	₹60-₹65
Coconut	₹45-₹50/piece

*Prices in the retail market

Avarekai yet to flood Bengaluru markets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The much-awaited arrival of avarekai, the flavour of the season, is yet to flood Bengaluru's markets. Deficit rains during the north-east monsoon and continuous rains in August earlier this year around Bengaluru seem to have hit the supply of avarekai this season.

But the present cold wave and dew are good for the crop, and is expected to help increase the *sogadu* (distinct aroma) of avarekai. The influx of avarekai usually starts by November, and the season usually extends beyond Sankranti in January. "By now, the price of a kilo of avarekai should have stabilised at around ₹40 to ₹50. But it is still as high as ₹80," said Neelamma, a vendor in Malleswaram market selling avarekai for decades.

Hitukida avarebele (skinned beans) is being sold at as high as ₹400 a kilo. Chennathimmaiah, a farmer who used to grow avarekai in Magadi, said that due to losses in successive years, he had not planted avarekai this year at all. He is not alone.

"During August, which is when sowing is done for avarekai, we saw incessant rains this year and most farmers missed the bus then. Sowing itself is low in Kolar and Chickballapur," said Srinivas, a farmers' leader from Chickballapur district.

But because of the heavy August rains, those who have opted to grow avarekai have sown it late and the crop was delayed, said a procurement officer for a grocery chain in Bengaluru. "We expect the supply to go up in another two weeks," he said. Shivamadu, Director, Horticultural Producers' Cooperative Marketing and Processing Society, said that avarekai was coming into the city's markets at present from the Hunsur belt.

Temperature likely to go up today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru and its neighbourhood, which have witnessed a drop in temperatures over the last few days due to Cyclone Ditwah, are likely to see a warm and sunny Tuesday.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) scientist C.S. Patil said, "The temperature is likely to go up on Tuesday."

"Mist very likely during early morning hours. We can expect a rise in temperature, though there will be partly cloudy conditions and we will also see sunshine. The temperature during the day is likely to increase and it will come down at night," Mr. Patil said.

He said that the maximum temperature on Tuesday is likely to be around 25 degree Celsius to 26 degrees Celsius.

On Monday, the city observatory recorded a maximum of 23.3 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature was 18.2 degrees Celsius.

The HAL airport and the Kempegowda International Airport observatories recorded trace rainfall.

Mr. Patil said, "Though the peak winter conditions usually sets in Bengaluru in the last week of December and remains till the end of January, the dip in temperatures over the last few days was due to Cyclone Ditwah which has now weakened to deep depression over southwest Bay of Bengal."

Mr. Patil added that the temperatures are likely to drop to 10 to 12 degrees Celsius in the last week of December and the first week of January.

Mr. Patil said that the minimum temperature in many districts in north-interior Karnataka like Bidar, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Vijayapura, etc. is likely to drop below 10 degrees Celsius in the last week of December.

Rohingya refugee, a rape victim, lives in fear as the accused threaten her to withdraw complaint

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 20-year-old domestic help, who is a Rohingya refugee and mother of two minor children, was allegedly raped by her neighbour at knifepoint in Bengaluru on November 9.

She is now living in fear as the accused and their family are allegedly threatening them to withdraw the complaint.

'Offered money'

The woman, who has been living in Bengaluru for the last five years with her husband, a ragpicker, and two minor children, told *The Hindu* that the accused and his family members were offering ₹5 lakh to withdraw the case, failing which they have threatened to kill her.

'Want justice'

"I do not want the money. I want justice," she said.

Recalling the incident, she alleged that the accused, Rasel, Fakhrul, Suhak, and Alameen, who are Bangladeshi migrants working for a garbage collection unit, had a rivalry with her husband and brother-in-law, and assaulted them over a dispute. Due to this, the duo sustained injuries and were taken to a hospital. She was alone at home with her two minor children when the accused allegedly barged into her house around 2 a.m. They forced her to accompany them to the hospital.

> The reason behind the attack was the rivalry between Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi illegal immigrants
>
> **KALEEMULLAH R.**
> City-based social activist

"They assured to take care of all the medical expenses and asked me to go along with them. I refused saying I am with my children and would come the next morning," the woman claimed.

However, the accused spoke to their associate, identified as Irfan, and allegedly forced her into a car and took her to an isolated place and raped her at knifepoint. The accused later allegedly dropped the woman home and threatened her with dire consequences if she revealed the crime to anyone.

The woman later lodged a complaint.

Case registered

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case of gang rape against the accused and arrested two of them while the others are on the run.

The family, having the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) identity card as Rohingya refugees, were living in Bengaluru for the last five years.

There are around 150 families living in different parts of Bengaluru doing menial jobs to eke out a living.

'Rivalry'

Kaleemullah R., a city-based social activist, said that the reason behind the attack was the rivalry between Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi illegal immigrants.

The police assured necessary action when the matter was brought to their notice.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SATHYAPRAMOD, doing Data Scientist and residing at Flat No.303, Laa Ruby Apartment, Murugan Temple Road, New Thippasandra, HAL 3d stage, Bengaluru-560075, have changed my name from Sathyapramod to Sathyapramod Ragothaman Vide Affidavit Dated 29th November 2025 Before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore

I, Sakina Hyderabadwala W/O, Juzer Hyderabadwala R/o C 1412 Epitome Elan,80 Feet Rd, Kothanur J P Nagar, 8th Phase, Bannerghatta Rd, B'luru 560076 have changed my name to Sakina Juzer Hyderabadwala for all purposes.

I, Srijan S/O, Subodh Kumar Maharaj R/o Flat No.308, The Banyan Tree Apartments, 90, Horamavu Main Road, Arshirvad Colony, Horamavu, Bangalore , Karnataka - 5600113 have changed my name to Srijan Maharaj.

I, Lilawati D W/O, Chandrika Prasad R/o Flat No 104, Warrior Mounts, Jayamuni Nagar, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064 have changed my name to Lilawati Devi.

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT

Vacancy Notice (Walk-in Interview) No. D1/608/2023/M

Chennai Port Authority invites applications for engagement of one Trainee Pilot on contract basis.
For further details, visit Chennai Port's Website viz.,
www.chennaiport.gov.in
Sd/-
Deputy Conservator.

ZILLA PANCHAYATH, TUMKUR
RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DIVISION TUMKUR

Short term tender notification
NO. 14/EE/RDWS&SD/TMK/MVSO&M/AE-2/2446 /2025-26 Date: 27-11-2025

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Tumkur has Invites request for proposal tenders from the eligible bidders for the Two Cover work detailed in the table below. Tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenders are Required to submit through Karnataka Public Procurement mode through portal. **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** from Class-III & above PWD Registered Contractors who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following MVS O&M Works of Tumkur Taluk of Tumkur Dist. As per the schedule given below. (Minimum Tender Amount **Rs. 108.92 Lakhs** EMD Amount **Rs. 2,00,000/-** and Maximum Tender Amount **Rs. 151.28 Lakhs** EMD Amount **Rs. 2,26,920/-**)

Sl. No	Particulars	Details
1	Last date of submit bids on Karnataka Public Procurement portal	**12-12-2025 Upto 5.00 PM**
2	Pre Bid Meeting	**Date: 05-12-2025 at 11.00 AM Venue, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division Tumkur**
3	Technical Opening of Bids	**15-12-2025 at 5.30 PM onwards**
4	Financial Opening of Bids	**18-12-2025 at 5.30 PM onwards**

For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)**

Sd/- (SRI K.M. Kumaraswamy)
Executive Engineer
RDW&S, Divison, TUMKUR

DIPR/TUM/RO-170/25-26/Oysters

Can Fin Homes Ltd
(Sponsor: CANARA BANK)
HOME LOANS • DEPOSITS
Doddaballapur Branch

Can Fin Homes Ltd
Near Ananaya School Driving School
First Floor Rangappa Circle, Doddaballapur,
Bangalore Rural - 561 203.
Phone : 080-29562115/7625079229
e-mail Id:doddaballapur@canfinhomes.com
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of "The Securitisation and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)"

To,
1. Mr.Achyutha Reddy S/o Venkataravanappa, No.42, 4th Cross Venugopalangar, Near Kollapuramma temple, Nagasandra Post, Doddabidarakallu, Bangalore North-560073 **(Borrower)**
2.Mrs.Sowmya.R W/o Achyutha Reddy, No.42, 4th Cross Venugopalangar, Near Kollapuramma temple Nagasandra Post, Doddabidarakallu,Bangalore North-560073 **(Co- Borrower).**
3.Mr.Lokesh.V S/o Venkataravanappa, No.42, 4th Cross Venugopalangar, Near , Kollapuramma temple, Nagasandra Post, Doddabidarakallu, Bangalore North-560073 **(Guarantor).**
You No. 1 and 2 have availed a housing loan from our branch against the security of mortgage of the following asset/s belonging to You . An amount of **Rs.19,52,735/-** (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Seven hundred thirty five Only) is due from you, to Can Fin Homes Ltd. as on 01.12.2025 together with future interest at the contracted rate.
Details of the mortgaged Property: All that Piece and Parcel of Immovable Residential property bearing Site No.27, Assessment No.28/4/27, Katha No.28/4/27 Situated at Shanubhoganahalli village, Hessarghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk Bangalore Urban District measuring East to West 41.5 ft & North to south 26.51 ft totally 1100 sq ft. Same is bounded as under: to the East: Road, to the West: Site No.28 and 29, to the North:Site No.27A, to the South:Road.
Registered demand notice was sent to you under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, but the same was returned unserved. The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrower/s as per the said Act. Hence this paper publication. As you have failed to adhere to the terms of the sanction, the account is classified as a Non Performing Asset on **29/11/2025** as per the NHB Guidelines. You are hereby called upon to pay the above said amount with contracted rate of interest thereon from **01/12/2025** within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which the undersigned will be constrained to Initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce the aforesaidsecurity. Further, the attention of borrowers / guarantors is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Limited

Place: Doddaballapur
Date : 01.12.2025

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, the 21st November, 2025

S.O. 5345(E).-In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-Section (1) of Section 20E of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989), the Central Government (Ministry of Railways, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment), after satisfied with the report of Assistant Commissioner/ Dharwad submitted vide his letter no. LAQ CR/120(A)/2024-25/838 dated 03.09.2025 hereby declares that the lands described and shown in the following schedule and notified under S.O. 2995(E) dated 06.07.2025 issued under sub-section (1) of Section 20A of chapter IVA of Railway Act, 1989 amended in 2008, should be acquired for executing the Special Railway Project namely "Construction of 2 lane ROB in lieu of LC No. 18 at Navalgund Road - Annigeri @ Ch: 34/700-800 (Annigere Village)" in the State of Karnataka.

SN	Name of the Village	Survey No.	Part	Area in Hectare
1.	Annigere	1091	1+2	0.3668
2.	Annigere	1092	1	0.0783
3.	Annigere	1092	2	0.0627
4.	Annigere	1093	-	0.0202
5	Annigere	1094	-	0.1583
			Total	**0.6863**

No. W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

PARDEEP PURI,
Chief Engineer/III/ Construction/Bengaluru
PUB/690/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store**
for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that, my client has agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **Sri.SYED MOHATARUM** S/o late Syed Ameer, residing at: No.28 & 29, Flat No.1, 1st A Cross, Ex Service Men Colony, RT Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 032.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No.10/1 (BDA Site No.176/A) PID No.78-110-10/1, having E-Aasthi Khatha No.7038255010, measuring East to West: (29'6"+33')/2 and North to South: (21'+25'6")/2, in all measuring 726.5 Sq.ft., with a building thereon comprised of Ground, First and Second floors, situated at 9th Main Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore–560052 and bounded on:

East by : Mariamma and Pyarejan's property
West by : Road
North by : Dastagir Sab House
South by : Hussain Baig's House

Sd/- S.F. GOUTAM CHAND, Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi,
Bengaluru - 560004

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, AT BANGALORE
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House,
Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

Case No. OA / 189 / 2022

Between :
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
No. 626, Sulebele Road, Shanthinagar,
Devanahalli - 562 110.
Represented by the Manager.
... Applicant

And :
M/s. Coromondal Nutri Solutions and Others
... Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULES 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANT

Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Bank and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for a Recovery a sum of **Rs. 50,19,621.00/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Twenty One Only)** together with current and future interest and others reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this, Summons or on the date of **30-12-2025 at 10.30 a.m.** in person or why a Pleader / Advocate duly instituted as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this the day **20-11-2025.**

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
DRT-II, Bangalore

To,
(1) M/s. Coromondal Nutri Solutions
3126-A, Channarayapattana Road, Gokare, Devanahalli, Bangalore - 562110.
Rep. by its Partners Mrs. Savith .M and Mrs. Narahari Venkata Subbamma.
(2) Mrs. Savitha M/s. Coromondal Nutri Solutions
254, 6th Cross, Canara Bank Layout, Behind Sahakarnagar, Govt. Hospital, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560 097.
(3) Mrs. Narahari Venkata Subbamma M/s. Coromondal Nutri Solutions
254, 6th Cross, Canara Bank Layout, Behind Sahakarnagar, Govt. Hospital, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560 097.
... Defendants

The science, technology, and pitfalls of using nuclear power in space

As the human presence in space expands, energy will become critical; while nuclear devices are forbidden, treaties are silent on nuclear propulsion for peaceful purposes; the Liability Convention addresses damage by space objects, but is not clear about accidents involving nuclear reactors

Shrawani Shagun

An artist's illustration of a future Artemis Base Camp operated by NASA. NASA

The US recently announced plans under its Lunar Fission Surface Power Project to deploy a small nuclear reactor on the moon by the early 2030s. It could be the first attempt to establish a permanent nuclear power source beyond earth orbit, signalling the start of a new era in space.

While solar energy can power some simple moon-based activities, it's constrained by the two-week-long lunar nights and the scarcity of sunlight at the poles. For a sustained moon and Mars presence, humans' energy independence thus becomes a critical enabler. This is also why the U.S.'s lunar nuclear programme is notable.

Promise of nuclear power

In conversations on this topic on the earth, nuclear power often features as an alternative that is compact, dense, and reliable.

Devices called radioisotope thermoelectric generators (RTGs) have powered the Voyager spacecrafts' odyssey through the solar system. They convert heat released by the slow decay of plutonium-238 nuclei into electricity, and are immune to dust and darkness. But RTGs only produce a few hundred watts of electric power, enough for instruments but insufficient for human habitats or industrial operations.

Compact fission reactors are the next leap. About the size of a shipping container, these reactors can generate tens to hundreds of kilowatts, and can power life support, laboratories, and manufacturing units.

The next leap on the demand side will be industrial operations like in-situ resource utilisation, which can convert Martian water ice into rocket fuel and oxygen, which need over 1 MW of continuous power. Sunlight alone can't reliably supply this magnitude beyond the earth's orbit. This is where nuclear power reactors are attractive.

On Mars, reactors buried beneath the regolith could take advantage of the natural shielding to protect equipment and inhabitants from cosmic radiation while producing large amounts of energy. The idea of deploying such reactors on the moon itself is lucrative, where they can help maintain warm habitats for explorers, process ice for water and rocket fuel, and recharge batteries for surface mobility vehicles.

Incremental advances in nuclear power have enabled new technologies that were once confined to science fiction. Beyond RTGs, there is now nuclear thermal propulsion, where a propellant is heated by nuclear decay and expelled from nozzles. The DRACO programme in the U.S. will test this technology in lunar orbit by 2026.

If it works, the trips to Mars could become several months shorter, slashing crew exposure to galactic cosmic rays.In nuclear electric propulsion, reactor-generated electricity ionises a propellant, offering years of efficient thrust for deep-space probes and cargo missions.

Legal vacuum

The international framework for nuclear power in space is based on the 1992 United Nations Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (UNGA Resolution 47/68). These Principles impose several procedural and safety obligations on launching states for systems used to generate electricity.

Three Principles in particular are relevant. No. 3 mandates nuclear power sources to be designed and built to prevent the release of radioactive materials in both normal and emergency conditions. No. 4 requires rigorous pre-launch safety analyses to make sure the probability of accidental release is acceptably low. No. 7 further aligns with existing space treaties by requiring prompt and clear emergency notification to any potentially affected state in the event of a malfunction or reentry involving radioactive materials.

However, this framework is limited. The Principles address only RTGs and fission reactors intended for electricity generation, and not nuclear thermal/electric propulsion systems. And while they call for safety assessments, they don't establish binding technical standards for reactor design, operational limits, and end-of-life disposal.

Crucially, as a General Assembly resolution, the Principles are non-binding, meaning they offer guidance but no enforcement mechanism. This leaves significant governance gaps. Among other possibilities, states can begin testing compact fission and propulsion reactors capable of operating far beyond the earth orbit without being compelled to address safety.

Beyond those Principles, the Outer Space Treaty, the Liability Convention, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty together only offer partial coverage. For instance, even if they are all considered together, there are no binding protocols to prevent radioactive contamination of celestial bodies or to govern reactors jettisoned at the end of a mission.

On Mars, reactors buried beneath the regolith could take advantage of the natural shielding to protect inhabitants from cosmic radiation. The idea of deploying such reactors on the moon is lucrative, where they can keep habitats warm, process ice for water and rocket fuel, and recharge batteries for surface mobility vehicles

Without such protocols, nuclear contamination could irreversibly alter pristine extraterrestrial environments long before humankind fully understands them. The tension between safety and international access is also paramount. As the European Space Agency's special advisor for political affairs Kai-Uwe Schrogl has noted: "Establishing 'safety zones' around nuclear power plants on celestial bodies must not lead to national appropriation or the restriction of freedom of use for other actors."

Responsible race

As the human presence in the solar system expands, energy will become critical and energy sources will become strategic.

For now, while the Outer Space Treaty forbids countries from placing weapons of mass destruction in earth orbit, it's silent on nuclear propulsion for peaceful purposes.

The Liability Convention addresses damage caused by space objects but isn't clear about accidents involving nuclear reactors in cis-lunar space or beyond.

For these reasons, we need to update the legal framework posthaste to match countries' technological capabilities or risk accidents that could have long-lasting consequences across state boundaries.

In fact, if such an accident does occur, the promising nuclear dawn will quickly devolve into a nuclear twilight, if not a second Cold War.

India's moment

India itself stands at a strategic inflection point. An alliance of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Atomic Energy could be powerful. A domestically developed space reactor could power lunar operations in permanently shadowed craters, enable continuous in-situ resource utilisation on Mars, and overall demonstrate India's leadership in deep-space innovation.

But both in India and around the world, a responsible nuclear future needs to begin with reform. The UN's 1992 Principles should be updated to explicitly include propulsion reactors, establish safety benchmarks, and define end-of-life disposal standards. The UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space needs to adopt binding environmental protocols to govern safe launches, preventing contamination, and disposing of nuclear systems.

To this end a multilateral oversight mechanism modelled on the International Atomic Energy Agency could certify designs, verify compliance, and enhance transparency.

This said, technology alone can't secure our future. Without a coherent legal and ethical framework, efforts to expand nuclear technologies in space could give way to conflict.

India in particular can help by championing safe nuclear practices, and do for space energy what it once did for non-aligned diplomacy: shape norms for a multipolar era by balancing ambition with restraint.

(Shrawani Shagun is a researcher focusing on environmental sustainability and space governance. shrawani.shagun@gmail.com)

The brain rewires itself to keep up with cognitive development. These changes happen at ages nine, 32, 66, and 83. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Our brains have five phases of life, research suggests

Priyali Prakash

The human brain undergoes four major turning points at specific ages, dividing our lifespan into five epochs of development, according to a new study led by scientists at the University of Cambridge in the UK. It was published in *Nature Communications* on November 25.

The scientists used diffusion imaging, a type of MRI, to show that the brain rewires itself to keep up with our cognitive development. These changes reportedly happened at ages around nine, 32, 66, and 83 years. The results suggest the brain's complex network doesn't develop linearly over time but instead does so in distinct phases related to these ages.

The researchers analysed data from 3,802 individuals aged 0 to 90 years. In epoch 1, aged 0-9 years, the cohort had 733 people. Based on studying them, the researchers reported that in the first few years, the brain develops rapidly. Both grey and white matter of the central nervous system increase and the brain forms new synapses while pruning others.

Researchers also said this turning point happens around the same time as the onset of puberty, which begins around 8-13 years for girls and 9-14 years for boys. Thus the body also undergoes changes in hormone levels alongside neurological ones – a time in which the body also experiences a higher risk of developing mental health disorders, per the researchers.

In Epoch 2, from 9 to 32 years, the volume and integrity of white matter, which helps transmit nerve signals and makes up most of the brain, grow. According to the study, the 32-year mark is the most significant turning point for the brain in this epoch. Until then, the brain focuses on developing large-scale, integrated neural networks.

The penultimate epoch lasts from 66 to 83 years. The 66-year mark doesn't invoke any major shifts, although studies have found that the brain takes significant steps towards deterioration

The researchers also said cultural, historical, and social factors – rather than just biology – influence the transition from adolescence to adulthood and that while adolescence begins with puberty, its exact end is more vague. The findings also indicated that adolescence technically extends to around 32 years.

In the third epoch 3, from 32 to 66 years – the longest – the study noted that changes in this period are slower as the brain focuses on stability. The team found segregation and compartmentalisation to be the major themes for this epoch as brains settled into adulthood, transitioning from the rapid development observed in the previous epochs.

These changes occur around the same time that intelligence and personality measures plateau.

The penultimate epoch lasts from 66 to 83 years. The 66-year mark doesn't invoke any major structural shifts although previous studies have found that the brain takes significant steps towards deterioration in this time. This is because the integrity of white matter begins to drop – consistent with what scientists already know about ageing and age-related degeneration.

The fifth and final epoch lasts from 83 years on. Because this part of the study included only 93 people, the team couldn't reliably confirm how age related to neural changes in this epoch. However, the researchers did note a declining trend in how age and brain structure are related over the previous epochs, which could explain why the trend intensifies in this last epoch.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The natural artists called minerals

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Name the optical effect where the colours on a surface appear to shift as you change the angle at which you look at them. Examples of such surfaces include oil films on water and peacock feathers. The colours are the result of structural features rather than the presence of certain pigments.

QUESTION 2

A gemstone called moonstone is famous for its soft milky glow that seems to float just beneath its surface when light moves across it. What do gemologists call this gentle, billowing light in certain feldspar gemstones? Its name comes from a mineral first found in the Adula Alps in Switzerland.

QUESTION 3

A feldspar mineral from Labrador in Canada is known to show brilliant flashes of blue, green, and gold colours that appear and vanish depending on how you tilt the stone. The flashes are caused by light reflected between thin internal layers. What's this phenomenon called?

QUESTION 4

Some gemstones show a famous "play of colours" created by small flashes and patches of light, often over a milky background because light scatters and diffracts from closely packed silica spheres inside. What is this optical effect, seen especially in opal, called?

QUESTION 5

Car paints, some plastics, and natural nacre — all display a smooth, silky sheen that seems to change subtly as they move. This is due to an effect called X: it's the same principle as in the answer to Q1, except most of the reflected light is white. Name X.

Answers to November 20 quiz:

1. Einstein's equations linking spacetime, matter, energy – **Ans: Field equations**
2. Spacetime property that tells mass how to bend – **Ans: Curvature**
3. Mathematician who formalised maths of space – **Ans: Gregorio Ricci-Curbastro**
4. Originator of theory in which gravity acted instantly – **Ans: Isaac Newton**
5. Maths tool that generalises scalars and vectors to more dimensions – **Ans: Tensors**

Visual: **Karl Schwarzschild**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | Prem Raj P. | Chitransh Soni

Visual: This photo shows various minerals displaying _____. Fill in the blank with the name of a phenomenon where they absorb UV light and reemit it as visible light. HANNES GROBE/AWI

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Crackdown launched on property tax violators of commercial establishments

While the current drive focuses only on commercial hubs, the Central Corporation may take up residential property verification in the future

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

In a bid to boost revenue, the Bengaluru City Central Corporation has launched an intensive crackdown on property tax violators of commercial establishments.

The initiative aims to generate approximately ₹6 crore to ₹8 crore in revenue from each commercial hub under its jurisdiction.

The Central Corporation, which also includes the Central Business District (CBD), comprises several major commercial hubs, and with them, numerous violators. A significant number of establishments have been found declaring false details under the Self Assessment System (SAS) to evade tax.

Over the past few days, several teams inspected commercial establishments in Shanthinagar, Indiranagar, Domlur, and M.G. Road and identified nearly 21 defaulters. K. MURALI KUMAR

Inspections

Over the past few days, several teams led by revenue officers inspected commercial establishments in Shanthinagar, Indiranagar, Domlur, and M.G. Road and identified nearly 21 defaulters who would now have to pay the tax amount they have evaded.

Senior officers told *The Hindu* that arrears would also be calculated and fines would be imposed. A senior corporation official said that one of the most common violations is the misrepresentation of usage status. "Owners declare false details of rented space for commercial usage and residential usage. Since its SAS, they declare lower tax liability and pay less tax to the civic body," the officer said.

For instance, a commercial building with a total area of 6,000 sq ft may declare only 3,000 sq ft as rented and the rest as self-occupied, even though 5,000 sq ft is actually rented out.

Tax for commercial buildings, which is pricey, is then paid only for the declared 3,000 sq ft. Although such violations should be identified by the civic body's revenue officers, officials often accept bribes from violators and let them off, resulting in losses for the corporation.

Twenty teams formed

To plug this gap, the corporation has formed 20 teams for the ongoing drive. These teams comprise officers from different wards to ensure they are unfamiliar with property owners and cannot be influenced or bribed.

The corporation oversees more than five commercial-heavy areas, including the CBD, Chikpete, Indiranagar, and Commercial Street. In each hub, officials have prepared a list of 100 major properties and are conducting inspections.

If violations are detected, a show-cause notice will be issued to property owners. Owners may appeal the notice, or if they agree with the findings, pay the fines and revise their declarations.

Future plans

A senior official told *The Hindu* that the current drive focuses only on commercial establishments, as fines for residential buildings would be lower. However, the corporation may take up residential property verification in the future.

Lakshman Singh takes charge as managing director of K-RIDE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lakshman Singh assumed charge as the full-time managing director of Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE) on Monday.

Outgoing managing director Govinda Reddy formally handed over charge.

Addressing engineers, officers, support staff, Mr. Singh reaffirmed his commitment to accelerating the progress of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project and said, "Over the past few years, I have deeply understood the pulse of this project – its significance, its transformative potential for the people of Karnataka, and the challenges it has faced and overcome. I know how important the work before us is and what it is capable of achieving."

Stuck for an hour, MP Rajeev Rai from U.P. slams traffic police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A complaint by Rajeev Rai, MP from Uttar Pradesh, sparked discussions on Bengaluru's traffic problems on Sunday after he publicly criticised the city's traffic management on social media.

In a post tagging Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and senior police officials, Mr. Rai said he had been stuck in traffic for more than an hour on Dr. Rajkumar Samadhi Road while heading to the airport on the same day. While many users supported his concern, others criticised him for expecting 'special treatment'.

"Then leave for the airport on time during Sunday peak hours, sir. Why expect special VVIP treatment? We common people travel like this every day," wrote Mukesh, an X user.

Mr. Rai alleged that the Bengaluru's traffic police failed to respond to multiple phone calls he made seeking assistance. He shared screenshots of his unanswered attempts. "Not a single policeman is seen around," he wrote, calling the city's traffic police 'irresponsible' and 'inefficient'. He added that poor traffic management was damaging the 'name and charm of this beautiful city', which he said had already earned a reputation for notorious congestion.

A senior police officer, however, told *The Hindu* that Mr. Rai's claim was untrue. "Goraguntepalya junction never operates without policemen. Also, it's a Sunday peak hour; officers will definitely be on the field," the officer said.

Other users criticised the MP, saying that if he had access to police officers' numbers, he should also know the appropriate channels to contact.

Supporting Mr. Rai, Tarak, another user said, "Agreed. The problem isn't the traffic but the way it's managed."

Friends of Police drive launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a massive outreach initiative, as many as 800 police personnel, including Police Commissioner, participated in the Bengaluru Police's 'Friends of Police' mission aimed at strengthening community policing and youth participation in crime prevention.

As part of the drive, the police teams fanned out across the city, visiting educational institutions under their divisions, subdivisions, and police station limits. The police aim to rope in two lakh students as part of the team to build a safer and more informed city. Over 10,000 students took the pledge and enrolled to help the police and be their 'eyes and ears'.

"This is not only an awareness programme, but an initiative to strengthen police and public relationship," Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said.

Gas geyser leak: Woman dies of suffocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 24-year-old woman died after inhaling toxic carbon monoxide gas leaking from a gas geyser while she was taking a bath.

The incident took place at Thotadaguddadahalli in the Madanayakanahalli police station limits on November 29. The deceased, Bhumika married Krishnamurthy four months ago.

The couple had moved into a rented house only 15 days ago. According to the police, Bhumika's husband, who works at a private firm in Peenya, left for work on Friday morning. Bhumika was believed to have switched on the gas geyser before entering the bathroom, where she reportedly succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a leakage.

When Krishnamurthy returned home in the evening, he grew suspicious after she failed to respond to repeated knocking and phone calls. With the help of neighbours, the door was forced open, and Bhumika was found lying unconscious in the bathroom. She was declared dead on the spot.

The Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case of unnatural death.

Former MLA R.V. Devaraj passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chickpet MLA and Congress leader R.V. Devaraj passed away following a cardiac arrest in Mysuru. He was 67.

He suffered an attack while he was visiting Chamundi Hills. He was first admitted to a private hospital and later shifted to the Mysuru unit of the State-run Jayadeva hospital, where he died, it is learnt. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar took to X late on Monday night to express shock and offer condolences over the passing away of Mr. Devaraj.

IMA scam: Investor 'transfers' funds illegally to avoid payment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The competent authority probing the multi-crore IMA scam has reportedly been cheated by an investor.

Based on the complaint filed by Shirin Taj, Special Officer and Competent Authority, the Vidhana Soudha police on Friday registered an FIR against Nihal Azhar, a resident of T.Narsipur, Mysuru.

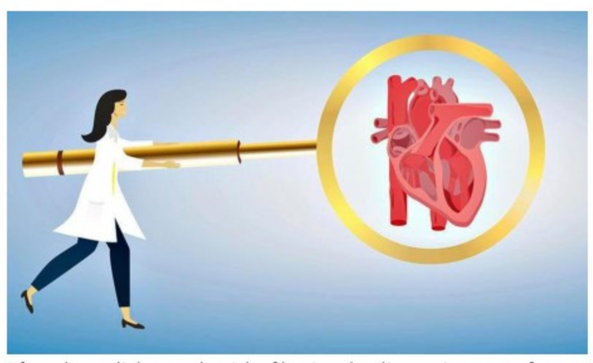
According to the complaint, the authority initiated the process to repay depositors under equitable principle of money disbursal irrespective of the size of their investment from the seizure of movable and immovable properties belonging to the IMA and the money got by auctioning it. However, the authority reportedly miscalculated and transferred a total of ₹1.49 lakh to Azhar.

The authority realised the mistake and communicated to Azhar to return the amount.

Even after a partial unfreeze order was issued on the suspect's account, he allegedly transferred funds to multiple accounts to evade recovery of the cheated amount.

'Diabetic women are more prone to having cardiovascular diseases compared to men'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



'If you have diabetes, the risk of having the disease increases four to five times in women as compared to a two-time increase in men.' GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Diabetic women are more prone to having cardiovascular diseases compared to men, said Chitra Selvan, head of the Department of Endocrinology, Ramaiah Medical Centre.

Speaking at the international conference on 'Ayurveda and Integrative Approaches to Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome', she said, "Generally, it is believed that heart disease is a thing that is more common in men. But if you have diabetes, the risk of having cardiovascular disease increases four to five times in women as compared to a two-time increase in men."

She added that women are probably at more risk of cardiovascular disease if they are getting treated for Type 2 diabetes. "What it essentially means is that the protection offered by estrogen in terms of cardiovascular for women is almost erased when a woman gets diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. So women are probably at risk of cardiovascular disease if they are getting treated for Type 2 diabetes," Dr. Selvan added.

Dr. Selvan said that women with diabetes are at more risk of getting coronary artery disease, stroke, dementia or end-stage renal disease compared to men. "If you are trying to look at complications related to diabetes, and you are trying to look at the odds of getting complications based on whether you are woman, you can see that the odds of getting coronary artery disease, stroke, dementia or end-stage renal disease increases if you are woman with diabetes versus a man," she said.

Dr. Selvan added that women who have Polycystic ovary syndrome at a young age are at an increased risk of getting Type 2 diabetes and also cardiovascular diseases.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, DEC. 02	
RISE 06:26	SET 17:52
RISE 15:21	SET 03:22
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 03	
RISE 06:27	SET 17:52
RISE 16:13	SET 04:23
THURSDAY, DEC. 04	
RISE 06:27	SET 17:52
RISE 17:11	SET 05:30

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	27	23
Mysuru	28	20
Bengaluru	23	18

Bengaluru Today
23°C The weather will be pleasant. Night will be slight cool and hazy. Chances of ight rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C The weather will be pleasant. Night will be slight cool. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of private companies closed down in last five years

2.04 In lakh. These companies have been shut down on account of amalgamation, conversion, and dissolution and have been struck off from the records under the Companies Act, 2013. According to data, 20,365 private firms were closed down in 2024-25. PTI

Gross GST collection in the month of November

1.70 In lakh crore. Gross GST collection rose at a slower pace of 0.7% in November to ₹1.70 lakh crore, as domestic revenues declined, according to government data released on Monday. Gross GST collection was over ₹1.69 lakh crore in November 2024. PTI

Number of people dead in Sri Lanka due to Cyclone Ditwah

355 Rescuers in Sri Lanka were scrambling to clear roads and deliver aid to more than half a million people hit by the cyclone, as the death toll climbed to 355, with 366 missing. Cyclone Ditwah brought the island nation's worst floods in a decade when it struck on Friday. REUTERS

Government schools merged in Assam in the last five years

2,980 Over 2,900 government schools have been merged and amalgamated with nearby schools in Assam for optimum utilisation of resources in the last five years. A total of 2,774 elementary schools have been merged during the period. PTI

Narcotics seized by DRI, customs between April and October

3,029 In kg. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and customs officials have seized 3,029 kg of narcotics valued at about ₹3,365 crore between April and October this year. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Why does India need bioremediation?

What are the two different types of bioremediation? How is traditional microbiology combined with cutting-edge biotechnology? Has the government initiated schemes to further bioremediation programmes? What are some of the challenges the country faces with respect to adoption of such technologies?

EXPLAINER

Shambhavi Naik

The story so far:

Human waste is leading to a world where access to clean air, water and soil is becoming increasingly difficult. The solution is two-pronged – reduce waste and clean up the waste already made.

What is bioremediation?

Bioremediation literally means "restoring life through biology." It harnesses microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, algae and plants to sequester or transform toxic substances such as oil, pesticides, plastics, or heavy metals. These organisms metabolise these pollutants as food, breaking them down into harmless by-products such as water, carbon dioxide, or organic acids. In some cases, they can convert toxic metals into less dangerous forms that no longer leach into the soil or groundwater.

There are two broad types of bioremediation – in situ bioremediation, where treatment happens directly at the contaminated site such as when oil-eating bacteria is sprayed on an ocean spill; or ex situ bioremediation, where contaminated soil or water is removed, treated in a controlled facility, and returned once cleaned.

Modern bioremediation combines traditional microbiology with cutting-edge biotechnology. New biotechnologies are enabling humans to gain unprecedented insight into biology, allowing them to identify biomolecules with useful characteristics. These technologies also allow humans to replicate biomolecules under desired conditions of use, such as in sewage plants or agricultural lands. For example, genetically modified (GM) microbes are designed to degrade tough chemicals like plastics or oil residues that natural species struggle with.

Why does India need it?

India's rapid industrialisation has come at a heavy environmental cost. Although pollution has been reducing, rivers such as the Ganga and Yamuna receive untreated sewage and industrial effluents daily. Oil leaks, pesticide residues, and heavy-metal contamination threaten both ecosystems and public health.

New methods: Garbage being dumped in the Mittanaganahalli landfill in Bengaluru in 2024. FILE PHOTO

Traditional clean-up technologies are expensive, energy-intensive, and often create secondary pollution. Bioremediation offers a cheaper, scalable, and sustainable alternative, especially in a country where vast stretches of land and water are affected but resources for remediation are limited. Moreover, India's diverse biodiversity is a huge advantage. Indigenous microbes adapted to local conditions, such as high temperatures or salinity, can outperform imported strains.

Where does India stand today?

Bioremediation is gaining traction in India, though still largely in pilot phases. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has supported several projects through its Clean Technology Programme, encouraging partnerships between universities, public research institutions, and industries.

The CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute has a mandate to propose and implement programmes related to bioremediation. Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology have experimented with a nanocomposite material synthesised from cotton that can be used to mop up oil spills and others have identified bacteria that can consume toxic pollutants in soils.

Startups are also entering the space. Firms like Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) and Econirmal Biotech offer microbial formulations for soil and wastewater treatment.

However, widespread adoption faces challenges such as a lack of site-specific knowledge and the complex nature of pollutants, and a lack of unified bioremediation standards.

What are other countries doing?

Japan integrates microbial and plant-based cleanup systems into its urban waste strategy. The European Union funds cross-country projects that use microbes to tackle oil spills and restore mining sites. China has made bioremediation a priority under its soil pollution control framework, using genetically improved bacteria to restore industrial wastelands.

The opportunities for India are immense. Bioremediation can help restore rivers, reclaim land, and clean industrial sites, while creating jobs in biotechnology, environmental consulting, and waste management. It can also integrate with the government's Swachh Bharat Mission, Namami Gange, and other green technology initiatives.

What are the risks?

The introduction of genetically modified organisms into open environments need to be strictly monitored to prevent unintended ecological effects. Inadequate testing or poor containment can create fresh problems while solving old ones. Public engagement will be necessary to allow the smooth adoption of new technologies. India will need new biosafety guidelines, certification systems, and trained personnel to scale this technology responsibly.

What next?

First, there is a need to develop national standards for bioremediation protocols and microbial applications. Second, building regional bioremediation hubs linking universities, industries, and local governments would enable better understanding of local issues and identifying appropriate technologies for their resolution. Finally, public engagement would raise awareness that microbes can be allies, not threats, in environmental restoration.

Shambhavi Naik is chairperson, Takshashila Institution's Health & Life Sciences Policy.

THE GIST

- India's rapid industrialisation has come at a heavy environmental cost. Although pollution has been reducing, rivers such as the Ganga and Yamuna receive untreated sewage and industrial effluents daily.
- Bioremediation can help restore rivers, reclaim land, and clean industrial sites, while creating jobs in biotechnology, environmental consulting, and waste management.
- The introduction of genetically modified organisms into open environments need to be strictly monitored to prevent unintended ecological effects.

Can India become self-reliant in REE production?

How is China using its dominance over rare earth elements as a geopolitical strategy?

V. Nivedita

The story so far:

The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹7,280-crore scheme to manufacture rare earth permanent magnets domestically. The scheme would facilitate the creation of integrated Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) manufacturing facilities, involving the conversion of rare earth oxides to metals, metals to alloys, and alloys to finished REPMs. This announcement comes at a time when China's export controls are squeezing global supply chains.

What is extent of China's dominance?

Rare earth elements (REEs), a group of 17 minerals, are crucial for their high density, melting point and conductivity. They are moderately abundant, but hard to extract economically and sustainably. China built global supremacy in this sector by controlling 90% of global REE processing and 70% of production, despite holding only 30% of global reserves. In April, China imposed export restrictions on seven rare earth elements and finished magnets, in a bid to counter the trade war. This hit many sectors, especially the automobile sector. "EV makers are the worst hit," said Pranay Kotasthane, deputy director of Takshashila Institution.

Though China's controls come amid a broader reshaping of global trade due to U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs, they are not new. In 2009, Beijing imposed export quotas on REEs which was scrapped after it lost a World Trade Organisation case brought by the U.S. and others in 2015. "China realised that this is something which it can play in order to achieve its geopolitical, geostrategic and geoeconomic objectives. They played the same playbook in 2020 while restricting the export of graphite. In 2021, they started an export licensing plan in which they started restricting the supplies to certain industries," Dr. Ram Singh, Professor (IB), Head (CDOE), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, explained.

Why is India focusing on REEs?

India's focus on REEs is driven by its ambitions in electric mobility, renewable energy, electronics manufacturing and defence. These industries depend heavily on rare earth magnets and components.

The country imported over 53,000 metric tonnes of REE magnets in FY 2024-25, despite having 8% of the world's REE reserves – mainly in monazite sands across Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Yet, India produces less than 1% of global output. To fix this, the government launched the ₹16,300 crore National Critical Mineral Mission in January, with a total outlay of ₹34,300 crore spread over seven years, to achieve self-reliance. The mission focuses on exploration, processing, and recycling minerals like lithium, cobalt, and rare earths. To boost domestic production, the government has auctioned new mining blocks and is inviting private companies to participate in exploration and processing. "This sector was closed to the private sector until August 2023 and hence this is a new domain. China's restrictions will help generate interest among private players," Mr. Kotasthane said. However, he points out that only a handful of exploration licences were handed out. "The stumbling block is government regulations and control. Deregulating all segments of this supply chain, fast-tracking environmental regulations, and funding exploration projects to reduce information asymmetry is crucial," he said.

Dr. Singh cautioned that India still lacks refining infrastructure, skilled labour and innovation capacity. He also pointed out that domestic manufacturing would take years to take off given the long gestation period.

"The good thing is that India isn't in a particularly bad position," Mr. Kotasthane said, pointing out that India's monazite sands have several light rare earths, including Neodymium, which are used in magnets. "Several companies have plans to substantially increase capacity in the rare earth magnet recycling space from end-of-life electronic devices and appliances," he added.

THE GIST

- Rare earth elements (REEs), a group of 17 minerals, are crucial for their high density, melting point and conductivity.
- India's focus on REEs is driven by its ambitions in electric mobility, renewable energy, electronics manufacturing and defence. These industries depend heavily on rare earth magnets and components.
- To boost domestic production, the government has auctioned new mining blocks and is inviting private companies to participate in exploration and processing.

From Page One

Don't go ahead with recruitment based on SC/ST Act for now: HC

The PIL petitions were filed by Mahendra Kumar Mitra, a social worker from Raichur, and Mahesh, from Bengaluru, questioning the constitutional validity of the Act of 2022.

The Bench also told the government that all appointment/promotion letters, if issued based on the Act of 2022, would expressly indicate that the appointment and the promotion is, subject to the outcome of the present petitions and the candidates would not claim any equities, in the event the increased reservation is struck down by the court.

Meanwhile, the Bench clarified that this interim order allowing continuation of already notified recruitment process would not affect the operation of any other specific interim orders or final orders granted by the court or the tribunal in relation to the recruitment process, initiated based on the Act of 2022 by issuance of recruitment notifications prior to November 19.

Though the Bench on November 19 had restrained the State government from implementing the increase in reservation in terms of the Act of 2022 till November 27, it permitted the government continuation of recruitment process with enhanced reservation for which the notifications were issued prior to November 19.

In terms of Section 4 of the Act of 2022, reservation for the persons belonging to the SCs and STs has been increased from 15% to 17% and 3% to 7%, respectively, but the reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) continues to remain at 32%, it has been stated in the petition, while pointing out that increase in reservation exceeds 50% limit for reservation for these categories set by the Supreme Court in the case of Indra Sawhney and others Vs. Union of India.

It has also been claimed in the petitions that National Commission for SCs and the National Commission for STs has not been consulted as required under Article 338 (9) and 338-A (9) of the Constitution of India before increasing the reservation.

Round two of breakfast meeting between CM and Shivakumar today

The Deputy Chief Minister terms the breakfast meeting with Siddaramaiah as a matter 'between brothers', stressing that there is no groupism within the Congress government

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After both leaders agreed to refrain from making statements on the power-sharing issue in the State, round two of breakfast meeting between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar is to be held on Tuesday, this time at the latter's residence in Bengaluru.

Mr. Shivakumar termed the breakfast meeting with Mr. Siddaramaiah as a matter "between brothers", stressing that there was no groupism within the Congress government.

"Me and the Chief Minister continue to work together as a team. I have invited the honourable Chief Minister for breakfast tomorrow to discuss and strengthen our collective efforts to deliver on our promises to Karnataka," he said on X.

Speaking to reporters here, the KPCC president said they would continue to meet often, much like the meeting on Tuesday.

Congress sources said that the high command is likely to ask both leaders to visit the national capital after the end of the Winter Session of Parliament. SUDHAKARA JAIN

When asked about the breakfast meeting at the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president's residence, the Chief Minister said Mr. Shivakumar had invited him to his residence on December 2. "If I am called, I will go," Mr Siddaramaiah said.

The two leaders held the first round of breakfast meeting at the Chief Minister's residence, Cauvery, on Saturday following the directions of the party high command. Both of them agreed to abide by the decision taken by the central leaders of the party on the sharing of power and the rotation of Chief Minister's post.

After winter session

Mr. Shivakumar said there was no plan to visit Delhi as of now. Congress sources said that the high command is likely to ask both leaders to visit the national capital after the end of the Winter session of Parliament, which is expected to conclude on December 19. By then, the winter session of the State legislature in Belagavi would have also ended.

The Congress top brass is expected to hold talks with both leaders on a whole lot of issues in the State Congress, including leadership change in the government, a Cabinet reshuffle and appointment of a new chief to the Karnataka Congress unit.

Digital e-stamping to become mandatory in Karnataka shortly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The new facility will not only bring convenience to public to get the stamp paper from the comforts of their home, but will also prevent misuse, according to Krishna Byre Gowda

More than two decades after the e-stamp paper facility was launched, Karnataka will replace it with mandatory digital e-stamping for both registerable and non-registerable documents shortly.

The new facility, which will become mandatory over the next few weeks, will not only bring convenience to public to get the stamp paper from the comforts of their home, but will also prevent misuse, including creating fake stamp papers.

Ease of buying

From approaching a stamp paper vendor on specified days and time currently, the new facility will provide the ease of buying stamp paper online 24/7 from the comforts of home. Not only has it been made fully online, it is also not amenable to any tampering, the government claimed on Monday.

While earlier if a stamp paper document was lost, public could not retrieve it, under the new facility, since the government will maintain digital record, documents can be retrieved using QR code.

The e-stamping facility was introduced in Karnataka following the multi-crore fake stamp paper racket was unearthed in 2002-2003. Over the years, revenue from e-stamp paper has brought in substantial revenue to the government.

If the stamp duty of about ₹45.90 crore was collected in 2009-2010 by issuing about 5.92 lakh certificates, it has gone up to about ₹2,320 crore in 2024-2025 when about 3.07 crore certificates were issued.

Misuse of e-stamp

"The government has observed misuse of e-stamp papers. The misuse has been happening for several years. The misuse includes printing of e-stamp and taking colour photocopies of it. The e-stamp was also being misused to pay lesser pay than what was supposed to be paid," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told presspersons here on Monday.

He said that there were 54 classifications for registerable documents whose fees varied from a few hundreds to several thousands. "However, for transactions where several thousands had to be paid as duty, a ₹100 worth stamp paper was being bought, which is mis-classification. This was resulting in losses to the exchequer," he said, adding that several such cases had been reported.

Tech upgrade

The Minister said that the digital e-stamp had been mandated for registerable and non-registerable documents. "It has been noticed that nearly half of the non-registerable documents are used to file affidavits. With the changing times, the government has also moved up in the technology."

E-swathu 2.0 rolled out for property owners in rural areas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge launching e-swathu 2.0 software in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

In a bid to provide convenience to property owners in rural areas to get their documents without a hitch, the State government on Monday launched e-swathu 2.0.

The facility was launched by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a function where Gandhi Grama Puraskara was conferred on 238 gram panchayats across the State, selected for the year 2023-2024.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that people's participation would strengthen democracy, and gram panchayats should become power centres. The selected gram panchayats were given ₹5 lakh and a memento.

INCREASING RESOURCES

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge explained that legislation and rules had been brought to bring properties under tax net to increase the resources of gram panchayats. Till now, gram panchayats were providing drinking water, streetlights, roads and drainage facilities to properties that remained outside the panchayat limits and were developed without land conversion, and that it was causing financial strain on the gram panchayats.

"Now these properties are being brought under tax net. The e-swathu 2.0 will help public to get the e khatha document for their properties. The whole process will be quick and transparent," the Minister said. He also warned of possible teething problems in the initial days of the e-swathu being rolled out.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that the public should make use of the facility, and that there was no need for people to run from pillar to post. "Pay tax through 11B and register the properties," he said.

Cunha panel submits report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Inquiry Commission, headed by former Karnataka High Court Judge Justice John Michael Cunha, submitted its report on the circumstances leading to the death of COVID patients at the Chamarajanagar District Hospital to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday.

The Commission had been set up to inquire into the deaths of 24 patients due to a lack of oxygen in the intervening night between May 2 and 3, 2021, to "determine the culpability of the officers or officials involved in the in the management of oxygen supply."

The report was submitted at Chief Minister's official residence Cauvery.

Retired judge Michael Cunha submitting his report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

CM holds review meeting on procuring INDIRA kits

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday held a review meeting on the implementation of INDIRA (Integrated Nutrition and Dietary Initiative for Revitalising Anna Bhagya).

This scheme envisages giving a diverse food kit in lieu of five kg of rice under the Anna Bhagya scheme.

The kit will have toor dal, sunflower oil, sugar and salt. As many as 1,25,08,262 INDIRA kits would be required per month under the scheme at a cost of about ₹466 crore, it was stated at the review meeting.

Procurement

It will involve procuring 18,628 tonnes of toor dal, 12,419 tonnes of sunflower oil, said a release.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa and Political Secretary to Chief Minister Naseer Ahmed, among others, were present in the meeting.

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (TIDCO)
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

e-TENDER NOTICE

NIT.No. TIDCO/TANCAM/ 2025–26 **Date : 02.12.2025**

Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited has established a few Centres of Excellence in Emerging Technologies. One of them being the Tamil Nadu centre of excellence for Advanced Manufacturing (TANCAM) in collaboration with Dassault Systemes. TANCAM Looking out for vendors to SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND SETTING UP OF DESIGN AND ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING FACILITY FOR HEALTHCARE APPLICATIONS.

Interested firms can download the Tender document from the website **https://tidco.com** and **https://tntenders.gov.in** with free of cost.

The schedule for the bidding process is as follows:-

1. Pre-bid meeting at **3.00 PM** on **05.12.2025** @ TIDCO Office
2. Last date and time for submission of Proposals/ Bids is on or before **3.00 PM** on **16.12.2025** through **https://tntenders.gov.in**
3. Opening of Technical Proposals/ Bids is at **5.00 PM** on **16.12.2025** at TIDCO Office.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
Phone No – 044 28554421.
DIPR/ 6394 /TENDER/2025 **E-mail: cmd@tidco.com, Website: https://tidco.com**

Deptt.of Water Resources - Government of Odisha
"e" Procurement Notice No. ACEDC-CTC- 07 / 2025-26

1.	Name of the Works	: Total 01 (One) no. of Drainage work.
2.	Estimated cost	: Rs. 485.41 lakh
3.	Period of Completion	: 18 (Eighteen) months
4.	Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.30 hours of Dt. 03.12.2025 to 18.00 hours of Dt. 17.12.2025
5.	Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 18.00 hours of Dt.17.12.2025
6.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur, Cuttack- 753003. e-mail id :- sedrainagecirclectc@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal of Odisha Government **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. All information, notices, addendum, corrigendum, cancellation notice etc. if required, will be published in this portal.

A-1042 : **Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Cuttack**
OIPR-32174/11/0039/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CANTONMENT ROAD, CUTTACK.
Email id :- seeccuttack@gmail.com
"e" Procurement Notice No.ACE, EC-I/08 of 2025-26

1.	Nature of work	: Road work and Stone work
2.	Total no. of works	: 2 Nos.
3.	Tender Amount	: Rs.252.10 Lakh (Approx.) and Rs.252.50 Lakh (Approx.)
4.	Tender paper cost	: Rs.10,000/- per each tender (Non refundable)
5.	EMD required	: As mentioned in Section No.1 of DTCN (Clause No.6)
6.	Class of contractor	: 'B' & 'A'
7.	Period of completion	: 08 (Eight) and 06 (Six) Calendar months
8.	Online for bidding	: 02.12.2025 at 10.00 hrs. to 16.12.2025 up to 17.30 hrs.
9.	Date & time of opening of Tender (Technical bid)	: 17.12.2025 at 11.30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions can be seen from the Govt. website "**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**".
All corrigendum / cancellation of tender if any, will only be uploaded in the above web site.

A-991 : **Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack.**
OIPR-32370/11/0024/2526

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	Quality Assurance	BWSSB/EQATE/PB/1103/2025-26 Dt: 01.12.2025	Rs.78,52,925.94 / Rs.1,57,100/-	09-12-2025 upto 5.30 p.m.	11-12-2025 at 12.00 Noon
2.		BWSSB/EQATE/PB/1105/2025-26 Dt: 01.12.2025	Rs.79,91,450/- / Rs.1,59,900/-		
3.		BWSSB/EQATE/PB/1107/2025-26 Dt: 01.12.2025	Rs.39,97,519/- / Rs.80,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Quality Assurance).

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

4.	(WWM) C Valley -1	BWSSB/EE(WWM)CV-1/PB/615/2025-26 Dt: 27.11.2025	Rs.67.23 Lakhs / Rs.1.34 Lakhs	09-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	10-12-2025 at 4.10 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM) C Valley-1.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO4139/25-26

TAMIL NADU Dr. J. JAYALALITHAA FISHERIES UNIVERSITY
Nagapattinam – 611 002, Tamil Nadu

ADVERTISEMENT No. 02/2025

Applications are invited in the prescribed form to fill up the post of Assistant Professor (Faculty of Fisheries Sciences) in the University.

1) **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: 15 Posts (FACULTY OF FISHERIES SCIENCES)**
2) **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: 1 Post (FACULTY OF FISHERIES SCIENCES) – ST (Special Recruitment for shortfall vacancy)**

Application form, instructions to candidates and the details of posts (discipline-wise) and number of posts, communal reservation, scale of pay, qualification etc. as per the Service Rules of the University can be downloaded from the TNJFU website **www.tnjfu.ac.in.** The duly filled in application should reach the Registrar, Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, Nagapattinam-611 002 on or **before 5.00 pm on 31.12.2025** along with the Registration Fee of Rs.2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) / Rs.1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) in the case of SC/ST candidates by crossed Demand Draft drawn in favour of "The Finance Officer, Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, Nagapattinam" at any nationalized bank payable at Nagapattinam. The Demand Draft should be dated not earlier than 02.12.2025. The candidates should specify in their application form "Application for the post of Assistant Professor (Fisheries Sciences).

The candidates who are willing to serve in the University for not less than a minimum period of three years alone shall apply.

The Cut off date for all qualifications is **30.11.2025.** Proof (Photo copies) should be enclosed with the application. Certificates issued after the cutoff date will not be considered.

Note : *In future, changes if any will be notified only in the website.*

Dated : 02.12.2025
Place : Nagapattinam DIPR/1421/DISPLAY/2025 **REGISTRAR**

ABSTRACT

A different system: Wall paintings ahead of Mizoram Assembly elections in Aizawl town on November 5, 2023. RITU RAJ KONWAR

On the mountain state vote: reading political landscapes through geography

A new study reveals how geography influences political representation in India's mountainous States, challenging traditional analyses and highlighting distinct electoral dynamics in regions like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

Nitika Francis

Marwah, D., & Alam, A. (2025), 'Edges of the Nation: Party System Divergence and Political Representation in Mountain India', *Studies in Indian Politics*. doi.org/10.1177/23210230251374814

When studying the political history of a country, how much does its geography come into play? India hosts mountains, valleys with river systems, deserts, and islands; ascribing the same analytical lenses to this variety might not always be productive. Research and political work in India tends to overlook the differences brought out by geography, as most such conclusions rely on electoral data taken from India's densely populated plains.

This need for variety in analysis is expanded upon in Devesh Marwah's and Aniket Alam's research paper titled, 'Edges of the Nation: Party System Divergence and Political Representation in Mountain India'. The authors focus on mountain societies and differentiate their political realities from the plains using electoral data.

Through the Zomia lens

Rather than looking at mountain societies through the perspective of lowland, State-governed societies, they are categorised as 'Zomia'. The term is used to describe highland regions in Southeast Asia whose communities can not be ascribed the same social science concepts as societies in the plains.

The geographical term, Zomia, was coined in 2002 by Willem van Schendel, who hypothesised that the lack of perspective on such regions marginalised its peoples and obscured their histories and political dynamics. Anthropologist James C. Scott expanded upon the concept by arguing that such areas were kept 'stateless' as a means of resistance. Mountain states wanted to evade the ways of the lowland "paddy states," which meant wet rice cultivation, taxation, and bureaucratic control.

Many academic and political perspectives see the mountain state as backward and developmentally stunted, but fail to recognise the structural difference between them and lowland states. However, Scott, along with many other academics, agree that with the advent of technology, markets, and the penetration of political institutions, the need for this form of structural distinction has faded.

Duverger's law

Marwah and Alam argue that this assumption is premature by examining Indian electoral politics through the lens of Duverger's law. The law holds that in political systems with constituencies and the first-past-the-post voting system, only two political parties will emerge powerful. This holds true in most political contexts, such as in the U.S. and the U.K. India has been considered a gaping exception, due to the presence of strong regional parties, which generally splits votes, as well as its cultural heterogeneity.

Some possible explanations for the compliance with Duverger's law are included in the paper. In the first-past-the-post system, since only the party that has secured the majority forms the government, voters are more likely to engage in strategic voting. They may choose not to vote for their preferred party, but rather for the party which is more likely to win or perform better. Some literature also expands upon how Indians tend not to vote strategically, and how factors like caste tend to impact the number of effective parties.

The article notes that most of the existing literature on India and Duverger's law seem to omit or limit analysis of the mountain states, and builds on this body of work by introducing the element of geography as an analytical framework.

Methodology

The paper classifies the following as mountain States: Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya. The plains States that are studied include Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Assam. Not only are most mountain States neighbouring the plains States, but in many cases they were also carved out of the latter post-Independence. This analysis deliberately excludes Jammu and Kashmir due to its complex geopolitical situation.

For each State, the Effective Number of Parties (ENP), is calculated. This index was coined by Laakso and Taagepera, and measures the number of significant political parties in a constituency by weighing them by their relative strength, rather than simply counting all competing parties. The resulting number helps in assessing the degree of political fragmentation in each seat. For instance, an index value of 2 suggests a bipolar contest, 3 indicates a triangular competition, and 4 shows a fragmented political landscape. A score of 1 shows one-party dominance.

The paper plots the share of mountain and plain States with less than 2 ENP, 2 to 2.5, 2.5 to 3, and more than 3, during the election years between 1977 and 2019.

Fragmented polity

When the States' shares of ENP are calculated over the years, trends diverge for both groups. Since 1977, the share of States with low ENP scores decreased over the years with the split and decline of the Congress, which started out as a dominant umbrella party in these States post the formation of India in 1947. Until 2019, most plain States had more than three effective parties, defying Duverger's law. This changed after the emergence of the Bharatiya Janata Party, whose dominance mirrors that of the Congress in the early years.

Meanwhile, the shares of ENP of mountain States over time tells a different story. With the exception of 1977, 1984, and 1996, less than 50% of mountain States scored ENP values above 2.5, implying that most of their electoral matches were bipolar in nature, complying with Duverger's law.

These results indicate a clear difference in the voting patterns of mountain and plain States, aligning with the theory of structural distinction between the two, backed by anthropological and historical analyses.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The U.S. is eyeing Venezuela for a regime change. This is not the first time that the U.S. has illegally intervened in other nations' political developments. Here is a related quiz

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

This place in Hispanic refers to the queen triggerfish that populates the coral reefs in the area. It was also the place where the U.S. launched a failed operation in Cuba to take out Fidel Castro's regime. Name it.

QUESTION 2

The CIA driven Operation Ajax was a codename for a coup in a country whose democratically elected leader wanted to nationalise his country's oil reserves. Following the coup, a monarch was restored, who lost power in a revolution in 1979. Name the country, the leader who was deposed, and the monarch who was restored.

QUESTION 3

While September 11 will forever be associated with the terrorist acts that took down the World Trade Centre in New York, the date also reminds of a coup that happened in South America, 28 years prior to the WTC attacks. This coup was supported by the CIA and led to a dictatorship coming to power. Name the leader who died in the coup and the country.

QUESTION 4

Named after a biblical judge who defeated a vast army with just 300 men, this 2020 operation involved former U.S. Green Berets and fishing boats attempting a regime change. The mercenaries were quickly captured near Macuto. Which country was targeted? Name the leader and the operation.

QUESTION 5

On February 5, 2003, which U.S. government official made a speech claiming that Iraq possessed "Weapons of Mass Destruction" — claims that were proven to be fabricated in order to justify an illegal invasion?

Visual question:
Identify this former President who was deposed in a coup in his country in 2009. While the U.S. did not play a role in the coup, its then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton did work to prevent his return to power.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The theme for World Aids Day. **Ans: 'Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response'**
2. India is the third largest country with the highest number of people living with HIV. These are the top two. **Ans: South Africa and Nigeria**
3. A lentivirus that is similar to HIV was found in these two types of primates in Africa. **Ans: Chimpanzees and gorillas in western equatorial Africa**
4. Name the scientists who were awarded the Nobel Prize for their discovery of HIV. **Ans: Luc Montagnier and Françoise Barré-Sinoussi**
5. This mode of transmission accounts for the majority of HIV infections. **Ans: Sexual transmission**
6. The two-word term used for the long phase of HIV infection. **Ans: Clinical latency**
7. Name the first antiretroviral medication used to prevent AIDS. **Ans: ZDV also known as azidothymidine (AZT)**
Visual: Name this Hollywood star. **Ans: Rock Hudson**
Early Birds: Nobody got all the correct answers

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

S. Upendran

Is it wrong to use the word 'around' in the following sentence – "The amount comes to around Rs. 20,000"? (T. Smiles, Tamil Nadu)
No, it is not wrong. "The amount comes to around Rs. 20,000" is an acceptable sentence. Whether you want to include the word 'around' or not depends on the meaning that you wish to convey. When you say that the price comes to 'around Rs. 20,000', what it means is that the price is 'approximately' Rs. 20,000. In other words, it could be more than Rs. 20,000 or less than that. So the word 'around' means 'approximately' in that sentence. If, on the other hand, you drop the word 'around', then the sentence, "The amount comes to Rs. 20,000" would mean that the price is exactly Rs. 20,000. Nothing more, nothing less. So the presence or absence of the word 'around' brings about a change in the meaning of the sentence. Here are a few more examples:

The bill came to around Rs. 100. (The bill was approximately Rs. 100)

The bill came to Rs. 100. (The bill was exactly Rs. 100)

We spent around Rs. 25. (We spent approximately Rs. 25)

When I cut a joke and somebody laughs, is it correct to say "He laughed to my jokes"? (S. Meera, Tirumalgherry, Secunderabad)
First of all, you do not 'cut a joke'. You either 'crack' a joke or 'tell' a joke. For example, the teacher cracked a number of jokes. The Manager kept everyone amused by telling lots of jokes. When you finish telling a joke, the listener does not 'laugh to' your joke, instead he 'laughs at' your joke. For example, the audience failed to laugh at the speaker's jokes. My cousin Bharath used to crack a lot of jokes and everyone used to laugh at them. It is all right to laugh at people's jokes, but you shouldn't laugh at the people telling the jokes. When you laugh at someone or something, you usually make fun of them. When Mohan slipped and fell, everyone laughed at him. It isn't polite to laugh at other people's mistakes.

Which of the following sentences is correct? This is one of the best books that have been published. This is one of the best books that has been published. (C. J. Andrews, Fatima Nagar, Trichur)
The second sentence is the correct one. When you use 'one of the', it should always be followed by a plural and not a singular noun. For example, 'One of the movies I saw...', 'One of the girls absent last week...', 'One of the cars...'. And the plural nouns are followed by singular verbs. One of the movies I saw last week was The Mask of Zorro. One of the girls absent was Saritha. And why do you use a singular verb although the noun preceding it is plural? Because you are not talking about all the movies that you saw last week, or all the girls that were absent. You are talking about only one of them. The subject is singular – 'one', so the verb is singular too.

Published in The Hindu on November 3, 1998.

Word of the day

Perdition:
the abode of forces of evil; where sinners suffer eternal punishment

Synonyms: hell, inferno, nether region, pit

Usage: *He thought this profession was the road to perdition.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/perditionpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pɜː(ɹ)ˈdɪ.ʃən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Insect in food: Customer files complaint after 5 months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Five months after a customer complained of finding an insect in his food at the popular Rameshwaram Café outlet in Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), a fresh controversy has erupted. While the café had filed a case earlier, the customer has now filed a counter-complaint.

Based on a complaint filed by Nikhil N., a city-based realtor, the KIA police registered an FIR against café owners Raghavendra Rao, his wife Divya Raghavendra Rao, and senior executive Sumanth Lakshminarayan. They have been booked for selling harmful food, giving false information, criminal conspiracy, and issuing threats. As per the complaint, Mr. Nikhil, a resident of Marathahalli, visited the café's Terminal-1 outlet on July 24. He allegedly found an insect in the *pongal* served to him. Though the staff reportedly agreed to replace the dish, he refused because he had a flight to catch. The incident was recorded by other customers, and photos of the contaminated *pongal* were taken.

Even before the customer filed his complaint, the case had taken a twist.

The next day, Sumanth Lakshminarayan, the café's operations head, lodged a complaint at the Vyalikaval police station accusing the group of customers of blackmail and extortion.

CPI(M) flays ED notice to Kerala CM, calls it 'political ploy' ahead of polls

Party's State secretary M.V. Govindan says ED notices in the past have coincided with elections in Kerala; former Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac terms the agency's action a 'smokescreen'; Congress says notice served to aid Pinarayi in polls

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ruling camp in Kerala on Monday came down heavily on the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Enforcement Directorate after the agency issued a show-cause notice to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over alleged Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violations.

The alleged violations pertain to the masala bond issued by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). Former Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac and KIIFB Chief Executive Officer K.M. Abraham were also served ED notices.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has attributed the ED notices to "a political ploy of the BJP during election time" in Kerala. Mr. Isaac, who was Finance Minister when the bond was floated, described the notice as "politically motivated" and a "smokescreen."

Pinarayi Vijayan and T.M. Thomas Isaac. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

'Cleared by RBI'

He said the ED has been "regular" in issuing such notices on the "masala bond issue" ahead of elections in Kerala. The RBI is responsible for giving clearances for masala bonds and all actions were taken as per RBI approval, he said. Dr. Isaac said land was never purchased using the funds, but instead acquired. "Moreover, when acquiring, the RBI had also taken away the condition that land cannot be purchased," he said. CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan termed the ED notice to the Chief Minister "a political game." ED notices have coincided with elections in Kerala, Mr. Govindan further said.

Sunny Joseph, president of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), said the notice served on the Chief Minister was "a joke." He said the notice would have the "same plight as the previous ones" issued by the ED against the Chief Minister and his son.

"The notice on the gold smuggling case has been compromised. The Lavlin case hearing is being put off forever. The ED notice is based on an understanding between the BJP and the CPI(M) to aid Mr. Vijayan during the election time," he said.

Mr. Abraham stated that the allegations "are based on false figures, misrepresentation of facts and a flawed understanding of applicable regulations."

(With inputs from Kozhikode Bureau)

Masala bond controversy reignites in Kerala

EXPLAINER

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Once again, the battle over the 'Masala Bond' issued by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) – the Kerala government's principal funding arm for large infrastructure projects – is hotting up on the southern State's political scene.

In the latest instance, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued show-cause notices to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, former Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac and KIIFB chief executive officer K.M. Abraham citing violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and the directions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

With the 2025 local body polls just days away, the issue is expected to gather political steam.

What is masala bond?

In a nutshell, a masala bond is an instrument for raising rupee-denominated resources internationally. For funding infrastructure projects, KIIFB had raised ₹2,150 crore through the bond issued in March 2019 when Mr. Isaac was Finance Minister in the 2016-2021 CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government. The bonds were listed in the London Stock Exchange and the Singapore Stock Exchange. In July 2024, the current Finance Minister, K.N. Balagopal informed the Kerala Legislative Assembly that KIIFB had repaid the amount in full in March 2024.

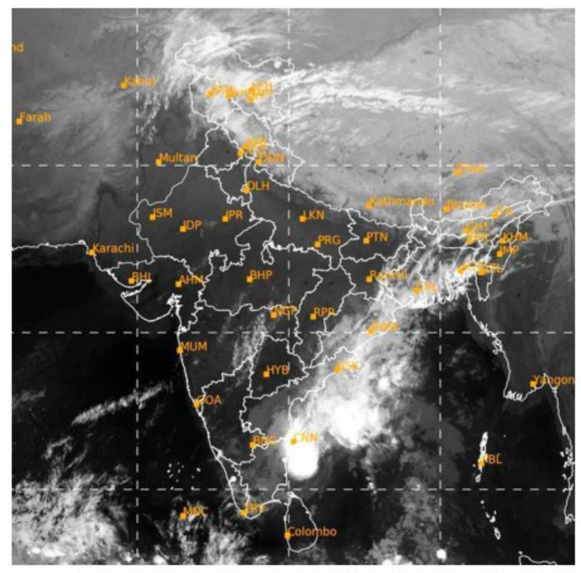
ED probe

The ED probe has centred around the alleged contravention of FEMA regulations and RBI directions and the end-use of the funds raised through the bonds. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), in its State Finances Audit Report for the year ending March 2019, had observed that the RBI nod for the masala bond was questionable and "appear to be in violation of the Constitution and encroachment on the powers of the Centre."

The row over masala bonds is part of a broader debate over 'off-budget' borrowings by KIIFB and its consequences for the State's overall borrowing limit. The KIIFB borrowings have been a matter of contention with the Centre treating them as direct liabilities of the State, much to the dismay of the Kerala government. Repeated requests to treat them as contingent liabilities have yielded no result.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Maharashtra

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.0	15.8	Kozhikode	—	33.4	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	31.2	17.5	Kurnool	—	31.3	21.2
Aizawl	—	25.6	11.1	Lucknow	—	25.6	10.6
Allahabad	—	27.3	11.6	Madurai	18	33.4	23.2
Bengaluru	—	23.3	18.2	Mangaluru	—	32.6	23.0
Bhopal	—	25.6	9.4	Mumbai	—	32.7	16.6
Bhubaneswar	—	28.2	16.0	Mysuru	—	27.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	24.0	7.8	New Delhi	—	26.1	5.7
Chennai	94.6	25.0	24.1	Patna	—	26.3	16.8
Coimbatore	—	32.2	22.8	Port Blair	—	29.5	22.4
Dehradun	—	25.0	7.8	Puducherry	0.8	26.2	22.8
Gangtok	—	16.3	9.9	Pune	—	30.7	14.6
Goa	—	33.0	22.5	Raipur	—	28.6	16.7
Guwahati	—	28.0	15.1	Ranchi	—	22.8	13.4
Hubballi	—	30.0	17.0	Shillong	—	18.5	8.6
Hyderabad	—	28.8	19.0	Shimla	—	19.8	9.0
Imphal	—	24.6	11.6	Srinagar	—	13.1	-1.9
Jaipur	—	25.9	13.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.4	23.6
Kochi	—	30.1	25.6	Tiruchi	0.2	31.3	23.6
Kohima	—	18.0	9.4	Vijayawada	0.4	27.4	22.0
Kolkata	—	28.4	17.0	Visakhapatnam	15	24.8	20.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.14	.54	.19	234	195	
Bengaluru	.11	.30	.47	60	71	
Chennai	.14	.13	.32	30	57	
Delhi	.82	128	100	352	313	
Hyderabad	.4	.27	.75	158	125	
Kolkata	.6	.82	.63	280	190	
Lucknow	.6	.38	.21	264	150	
Mumbai	.10	.72	.34	147	136	
Pune	.8	.79	.81	272	251	
Visakhapatnam	.15	.38	.48	126	106	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 329 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Executive Engineer, 18th Floor, Subhash Chandra Bose Building, M.G.Road, Bangalore-560001.

No. EE/UDC/PR/01/2025-26 Date : 01.12.2025

NOTIFICATION

Subject : Engagement of Urban Planners, Urban Designers and Urban transport Planning Expert on Contract Basis for the Urban Design Cell under Bangalore Central City Corporation.

Applications are invited from qualified / eligible and experienced professionals for engagement of Urban Planner-1 Post, Urban Designer-1 post and Urban transport Planning Expert-1 Post on a contractual basis for a period of one (1) year in the Urban Design Cell of BCCC. The details of the positions and criteria for selection and other relevant details are available at the GBA website **https://bbmp.gov.in/urban-design**.

Application Procedure

1. Interested candidates shall submit their application along with the following at **https://bbmp.gov.in/urban-design**
   (a) Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) (b) Copies of educational qualification certificates & experience certificates (c) Portfolio of relevant work / projects
II. Applications must be submitted through online in the prescribed format
III. Incomplete applications and applications received after the last date shall not be considered.
IV. For any queries contact Executive Engineer, 18th Floor, Subhash Chandra Bose Building, M.G.Road, Bangalore-560001, Ph no: 9844732311 or E-mail to **bcccqcz1@gmail.com**
V. Last date for submission of applications : **15.12.2025**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Urban Design Cell, BCCC

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಧಾರವಾಡ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0836-2742221 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ : 0836-2747700
Email: dszpdharwad@gmail.com
ನಂ/ಧಾಜಿಪಂ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/ಸಿ-3/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 01-12-2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ 3 ನೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯ ತಪಾಸಣೆಯ ಕುರಿತು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹೆಸರು

2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ 3 ನೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯ ತಪಾಸಣೆಯ ಕುರಿತು.

ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು : (1) ಆಸಕ್ತ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಬಿಡ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು WWW.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. (2) Tender No : RDPR/2025-26/SE3208 (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **11-12-2025** ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಚನೆಗಳ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಇ-ಫಾರ್ಮೆಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. (5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ : **15-12-2025** ಸಮಯ 10.30 AM (6) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ನಂತರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ : ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಮುಂದಿನ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇವಲ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅಪಡೇಟ್ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಧಾ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/929/25-26 **ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION &GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DEPARTMENT
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT DIVISION, BELAGAVI.
PH NO.0831-2463850 / FAX NO.0831-2423008

No.EE /MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE/2025-26/4153 Date:01-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-2,3&4)

As per KTTP Act-2000 and recent Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi has invited the Item rate tender through KPPP (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Total 04 Nos. of Belagavi/Gokak/Athani Sub Divisions. Estimate Amount Highest Rs.312.00 Lakhs & Lowest Rs.38.00 Lakh. 1. For KW-4 work: Date of Pre-tender meeting:08-12-2025 at 11.00 AM, 2.Tender Receipt Last Date:09-12-2025 Evening 4.00 PM, 3. Tender Opening Date:10-12-2025 Evening 4.30 PM (if possible), 4. For Tender Details office address: Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi & www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1412/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat Chitradurga
Office of the District Ayush Officer, Old K.S.R.T.C. Depot Road, H. M.T. Compound, Church Extension Chitradurga 577501
Phone: 08194-234113 e-mail id daochitradugra2021@gmail.com
Ref No: DAOCTA/14/ZP/ACC(2)/2025-26 Dated: 29-11-2025

E-Tender Announcement

An e-tender is invited in two-envelope format as per the rules of KTPP-2000 for the purchase of essential medicines for the year 2025-26 for 4 Government Ayurveda Hospitals and 32 Government Ayurveda Dispensaries functioning under the Chitradurga District AYUSH Office through e-tender from interested authorized suppliers/manufacturers as follows. **(1)** Total Tender Amount Rs: 55,00,000 (Fifty Five Lakhs) **(2)** E.M.D amount at 2.5% of the total tender amount (through e-portal only) Rs.1,37,500/- (One lakh thirty seven thousand five hundred) **(3)** Starting Date for Downloading Tender Documents on E-Procurement Portal Date: 29-11-2025 onwards **(4)** Date of Bidders Pre Bid Meeting & Submission of Samples of Drugs Date: 04-12-2025 at 03:00 pm **(5)** Last date for uploading tender documents on e-procurement portal Date: 15-12-2025 at 5:30 pm **(6)** Tender Technical Envelope Opening Place and Date District AYUSH Office Chitradurga Date: 17-12-2025 at 11:00 AM **(7)** Date and Place of Opening of Financial Envelope The date will be fixed after verification of the technical envelope **(8)** TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER(KPPP) AYD/2025-26/IND0130 Tender documents are requested to be uploaded through the E-Procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by the stipulated last date. For further information, the office can be contacted at the following telephone number: 08194-234113 during office hours (excluding holidays).

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/501/2025-26

Sd/- District Ayush Officer Chitradurga.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ, ವಿಕಾಸಸೌಧ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸಂ: ಸಿಐ102ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಕ್ಯೂ2025 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15-11-2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1966ರ ಕಲಂ. 28(4) ರನ್ವಯ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

1966ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ (1966ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 18) ವಿಧಿ 28(1)ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದತ್ತವಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ, ದಿನಾಂಕ 04-11-2009ರ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಶೇಷ ರಾಜ್ಯಪತ್ರ ಭಾಗ-3 ರ ವಿಶೇಷ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಪುಟ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 33 ರಿಂದ 51 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಸಿಐ424ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಕ್ಯೂ 2009 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 31-10-2009ರನ್ವಯ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟ ಪ್ರದೇಶವು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸದರಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಇದೇ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿರುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವುದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನದಟ್ಟಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ವಿಧಿ 28(3)ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆದುದರಿಂದ, 1966ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ವಿಧಿ 28(4)ರ (1966ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 18) ದತ್ತವಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಜಮೀನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅನುಸೂಚಿ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು : ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಕಸಬಾ : ಹೋಬಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ : ಬದನಗುಪ್ಪೆ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ಖಾತೆದಾರರು / ಅನುಭವದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಐನ್ ಎ-ಗು	ಖರಾಬು ಎ-ಗು	ಬಾಕಿ ಎ-ಗು	ತರಹೆ	ಆಕಾರ	ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.	ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.	ಉತ್ತರ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.	ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	ಚಿಕ್ಕದಾಸನಾಯ್ಕ ಬಿನ್ ಬಿಳಿಗಿರಿನಾಯ್ಕ, ಮಂಗಳಮ್ಮ, ಕೋಂ ಚಿಕ್ಕದಾಸನಾಯ್ಕ (ಮೇಲಿನ ಜಂಟಿ)	543	1-00	-	1-00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	1.08	231	385	231	360
	ಒಟ್ಟು		1-00		1-00						

ಸಹಿ/- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಆದೇಶದ ಅನುಸಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ
(ಸಿ.ವಿ. ಹರಿದಾಸನ್) ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧೀನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ (ಕೈ.ಅ.)

ಸಂ:ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫:ಚಾನಗರ:528:2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that on behalf of our client we are investigating the ownership, right, title and interest in relation to the properties described in Item No. 1 and Item No. 2 of the Schedule below ("**Schedule Property**"). Item No. 1 Property is owned by Sri. Chikka Muniyappa, Smt. Parvathamma and Sri. C. Nagesh, and Item No. 2 Property is owned by Sri. C.Nagesh (**Owners**), all residing at B100/6, 5th Cross, Prakruthinagar, Kogilu Main Road, Yelahanka Bangalore North – 560 064. The Owners have represented that they are the absolute owners of their respective properties having unrestricted right over the Schedule Property.

Any person or persons, including an individual, a Hindu Undivided Family, a company, banks, financial institution(s), non- banking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property having any objection, claim, interest or right, title on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part or portion thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, succession, sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy, maintenance, license, share, assignment, attachment, development rights, right of way, lispendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption or any liability or commitment or otherwise or encumbrance or demand of any nature whatsoever is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the due diligence shall be completed without reference to such claim, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED TO ABOVE

Item No. 1
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property measuring 01 Acre 25 Guntas, out of 03 Acres 33 Guntas in Survey No. 12/4, situated at Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on;

East by	Remaining portion of same Survey No. 12/4
West by	**Site No. B-45,** Khata No. 1020/ 539/B-45 in Survey number 21/2
North by	Remaining portion of the same Survey No. 12/4 and land bearing survey number 12/3
South by	Land bearing Survey No. 20

Item No. 2
All the piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No. B-45, BBMP form B Khata No. 1020/539/B-45, measuring East to West North side 38 Feet and South side 00 feet, North to South East side 73 Feet and West side 67 Feet and totally measuring 1273 Square feet, situated at Prakruthinagar, Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on;

East by	Property belonging to Chikka Muniyappa in Survey No. 12/4
West by	Prakruthinagar Main Road
North by	Northern portion of the same site number B-45 Land bearing Survey No.20
South by	Private Property

Mr. S.T Prashantha Kumar, Senior Partner
Fox Mandal & Associates, Solicitors and Advocates
"FM House", 6/12, Primrose Road,
Bangalore 560 025. Karnataka, India
e-mail: prashantha.kumar@foxmandal.in Phone : +91 80 2559 5911.
Date : 02.12.2025

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemmigepura Division, Opposite to Sagar Haspital, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru - 560 078.

No:EE(HP)/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 01-12-2025

TENDER CORRIGENDUM

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

Subject: Postponement of EMD amount, pre bid meeting, submission of bids and tender opening dates as notified in Tender notificaion
Reference: Tender notification date: **EE(HP)/TEND/01/2025-26**
Date: 20-11-2025
With reference to the above subject, due to technical reason EMD amount, pre bid meeting, submission of bids and tender opening dates are modified for tender package work and the postponed dates are as mentioned below

Details: EMD amount as fixed after Corrigendum EMD: Rs. **12.79** Lakh (Rs.**5.00** Lakh through online payment & **Rs.7.79** Lakh through BG)

Details: EMD amount as notified in tender notification EMD: Rs.**15.00** Lakh (Rs.**5.00** Lakh through online payment & Rs.**10.00** Lakh through BG)

Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Pre bid meeting **09-12-2025** at **3:00** pm. (2) Last date for submission of EMD basic bank guarantee **17-12-2025** upto **5:30** pm (3) Last date for Tender bid submission for package works tender by tenderers **17-12-2025** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Date of opening of Tender **18-12-2025** at **4:05** pm.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Hemmigepura Division

Cautious optimism

India's challenge is to maintain the growth momentum

India's September-quarter GDP data for the current financial year beat all estimates, coming in at 8.2%, higher than 7.8% in Q1 FY26 and well above the year-ago period. This offers fleeting reassurance to policymakers, days after October's trade data revealed a historic deficit of $41.68 billion, driven partly by a trebling of bullion imports – a signal of economic uncertainty. Growth has been led by manufacturing (9.1%) and services (9.2%), supported by a recovery in private consumption. Private Final Consumption Expenditure grew 7.9% in Q2 FY26, compared with 6.4% in Q2 FY25, while government spending also provided a modest boost. Together, these suggest a broad-based uptick in domestic activity despite global headwinds. Yet, the full effects of the external shock may surface in the quarters ahead. The U.S.'s 'two-stage' India tariffs, in August, landed mid-quarter. Some front-loading of export orders ahead of these tariffs may also have inflated Q2 output. A second statistical effect is at play. Retail inflation fell to 0.25% in October, the lowest in the current CPI series, contributing to a GDP deflator reportedly below 1%. A deflator this low mechanically inflates real GDP relative to nominal; the narrow gap between nominal GDP (8.7%) and real GDP (8.2%) underscores this. Should inflation rise or input costs firm up – if oil prices climb as India diversifies away from Russian crude – headline GDP growth may moderate. The RBI's upcoming Monetary Policy Committee meeting adds uncertainty, as any policy rate will shape demand-side pressures.

The Gross Value Added breakdown shows construction growing 7.2%, and the services sub-segment of financial, real estate and professional services rising 10.2% – indicating that capital-intensive, infrastructure-linked sectors have been central to this momentum. Monthly industrial indicators reinforce this pattern: the IIP rose 4% in September, with core capital-intensive categories such as steel (14.1%) and cement (5.3%) recording strong gains. This aligns with the impact of the RBI's three repo-rate cuts this year, which lowered the policy rate to 5.5% in June and may have supported investment activity. Crucially, the composition of growth remains skewed. The quarter's expansion has been driven by capital-intensive and higher-skill sectors – banking and technology – while high-employment, labour-absorbing sectors continue to lag. IIP data for the past six months also point to weak rural consumption. There is, therefore, reason for cautious optimism. But the September-quarter growth spurt appears concentrated in better-paying formal sectors, even as low-income, export-linked, labour-intensive segments struggle. With September and October trade data already flashing warning signs, it might be too early to conclude that this pace of growth could be sustained.

War clouds

Whatever Maduro's failings, the U.S. must step back from its Venezuela plans

Donald Trump's remark that Venezuela's airspace should be considered "closed in its entirety" raised fears that the Republican "peacemaker" President may be preparing to attack the South American nation. Over the past few weeks, the U.S. has intensified pressure on Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro by conducting strikes in the Caribbean and Pacific waters against alleged drug traffickers and bolstering its troop presence in the region. Washington insists that the operations are part of its 'war on drugs', and accuses Mr. Maduro of heading Cartel de los Soles, which the U.S. has designated as a foreign terrorist organisation. The U.S. troop deployment includes two amphibious ready groups with over 4,500 Marines and sailors. The Pentagon has also sent aircraft carrier *USS Gerald R. Ford*. Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, is hosting F-35 fighter jets and MQ-9 Reaper drones, just across Venezuela's coast. In October, the U.S. flew a pair of supersonic B-1 Lancer bombers along the coast of Venezuela. It is now evident what Mr. Trump seeks – a regime change in Caracas. And Venezuela's right-wing opposition, led by Nobel Peace Laureate María Corina Machado, has wholeheartedly endorsed America's plans.

Mr. Maduro, a self-styled socialist, stands accused of rigging the 2024 presidential election, and Venezuela's economy has suffered a near-total collapse on his watch, prompting millions to flee. He shares responsibility for Venezuela's current condition. But the U.S. is not an innocent actor either. Washington's sanctions have been a major contributor to Venezuela's economic crisis. In the past, U.S. and several European governments had recognised Juan Guaidó, an opposition figure, as the President in a bid to undermine the Maduro government. Venezuela has long been used as a transit route by drug traffickers from Colombia, the source of most of the world's cocaine. Yet, the U.S. government has not produced solid evidence to link Mr. Maduro to the cartels or to drug trafficking. The attacks in the Caribbean waters killing civilians constitute a blatant violation of international law. The threats by the Trump administration against Mr. Maduro, irrespective of the character of his regime, amount to an assault on Venezuela's sovereignty. More importantly, the U.S. seems unwilling to learn from its past mistakes. It invaded Afghanistan in 2001 only to leave 20 years later after cutting a deal with the Taliban. America's 2003 invasion of Iraq turned out to be one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes. Mr. Trump, who claims credit for ending many wars, must step back from the brink, and seek to resolve differences with Venezuela through dialogue.

The new action plan on AMR needs a shot in the arm

Dr. Abdul Ghafur

is Senior Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Apollo Hospital, Chennai, and Coordinator, Chennai Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

India's new National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR 2.0) – (2025-29) – has been released at a time when Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is affecting human health, veterinary practices, aquaculture, agriculture, waste systems and the entire food chain. Antibiotic residues, resistant organisms and environmental discharge connect these sectors in powerful ways. AMR does not remain confined to hospitals. It moves through soil, water, livestock, markets and food systems, making it a true One Health challenge. Therefore, any national plan must be matched by real and coordinated action across all levels of governance.

The evolution, from the first action plan

The first National Action Plan on AMR, launched in 2017, was a significant step forward. It brought AMR into national consciousness, encouraged multi-sectoral participation, improved laboratory networks, expanded national surveillance and supported stewardship. It also placed AMR firmly within a One Health framework, recognising the links between human health, animal health and the environment.

Despite this progress, implementation during the first plan period remained limited at the State level. Only a small group of States – Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Sikkim and Punjab – developed formal State Action Plans, and only a few moved meaningfully into execution. The majority continued to rely on fragmented activities within individual sectors; State-wide, multisectoral One Health structures did not take shape in most parts of the country.

This slow uptake was not due to a shortage of national effort, but because the major determinants of AMR fall under State jurisdiction. Health administration, hospital functioning, pharmacy regulation, veterinary oversight, agricultural antibiotic practices, food-chain monitoring and waste governance are controlled by State departments. National guidance alone cannot create uniform implementation when the operational levers sit elsewhere.

India's broader public health experience shows that real progress happens only when the Centre and States work within a structured, mutually accountable system. The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme is a clear example: its achievements arise from regular joint reviews, shared monitoring missions and clearly defined roles across levels of government. The National Health Mission follows similar principles, where coordinated planning, dedicated funding signals and periodic performance assessments enable States to turn national priorities into on-ground action. The NAP-AMR 2.0 represents a more mature and implementation-oriented framework when compared with the first plan. It moves beyond broad intent and outlines clearer timelines, responsibilities and resource planning. An important advancement is the recognition that India cannot address AMR without meaningful participation from the private sector, which delivers a major proportion of health care and veterinary services. The plan also strengthens its scientific base by placing greater emphasis on innovation – rapid diagnostics, point-of-care tools, alternatives to antibiotics and improved environmental monitoring.

The success of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR 2.0) depends on how effectively national and State systems work together

It deepens its One Health perspective, giving more attention to food-system pathways, waste management and environmental contamination. Surveillance structures are more integrated across human, veterinary, agricultural and environmental sectors, creating a harmonised national approach.

In terms of governance, the NAP-AMR 2.0 introduces a higher level of national oversight by placing intersectoral supervision under NITI Aayog through a dedicated Coordination and Monitoring Committee. It repeatedly stresses that every State and Union Territory should establish State AMR Cells and prepare State Action Plans aligned with the national framework, supported by a national dashboard for progress reporting. These developments signal that AMR is evolving from a technical health issue to a national development priority requiring multi-departmental engagement.

Where the new plan falls short

Despite these important developments and the stronger emphasis on State-level implementation, the fundamental weakness of the first plan remains unchanged. The plan stresses that States must develop AMR Action Plans and establish AMR Cells, but it does not create any mechanism to ensure that they do so. There is no formal Centre-State AMR platform, no joint review mechanism, no statutory requirement for States to notify or implement their plans and no financial pathway – such as NHM-linked incentives – that could anchor sustained State commitment. In a federal system where the key determinants of AMR – health services, veterinary oversight, agricultural antibiotic use, food-chain safety and waste regulation – lie almost entirely within State jurisdiction, this is the pivotal gap. Without a structured method for political engagement, administrative follow-through and shared accountability, even a well-designed national plan risks remaining a technical document rather than a functional national programme.

The AMR policy cannot succeed through guidance alone. Unless India builds a mechanism that brings the Centre and the States into a common implementation framework, the NAP-AMR 2.0 will struggle to convert national intent into measurable national outcomes.

The need for a coordinated mechanism

To make the NAP-AMR 2.0 effective, India needs a clear architecture that brings political leadership, senior administrators and sectoral departments from all States into a unified system. A national-State AMR council, chaired by the Union Health Minister and guided by NITI Aayog, could provide the platform for regular review, joint decision-making and coordinated problem-solving across human health, veterinary sectors, agriculture, aquaculture, food systems and environmental regulation.

State engagement would also strengthen if the Union Government formally requested each State to prepare and notify its AMR Action Plan, with timelines and annual reviews. Experience from the National Health Mission (NHM) and tuberculosis (TB) programmes shows that high-level communication, especially through Chief Secretaries, can significantly shift administrative attention.

Financial mechanisms should follow. Even modest conditional grants under the NHM can drive improvements in surveillance, stewardship, infection control and laboratory strengthening. When funding signals priority, States respond with administrative energy and policy focus.

The NAP-AMR 2.0 provides the scientific and strategic foundation India needs. But its success will depend entirely on how effectively national and State systems work together. AMR is driven by real-world practices along the entire One Health continuum – from hospitals and farms to markets, food chains and wastewater systems. Without strong State participation, national plans cannot have national impact.

India has an opportunity now to build a coordinated and accountable Centre-State model for AMR control. If such a system is established, the country can achieve measurable progress and set an international example. Without it, even the most well-crafted national plan may remain a document of intentions rather than a framework for action. With stronger coordination, political commitment and sustained support across States and sectors, the NAP-AMR 2.0 can become a turning point in India's AMR journey.

The need for 'heart-resilient' urban planning

Priyanka Kochhar

is the CEO of The Habitat Emprise, and a researcher in sustainable built environments and holistic urban development

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On October 8, 2025, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) observed World Habitat Day in New Delhi under the theme, 'Urban Solutions to Crisis'. The event spotlighted programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) and the Smart Cities Mission. Yet, beneath the visible challenges of pollution, heat and inequity lies a quieter emergency – a surge in heart disease and diabetes. Cardiovascular ailments are a main reason now for urban deaths, with prevalence rate nearly twice that of rural India, and witnessing more patients under the age of 50 years.

Daily life in urban India – long commutes, polluted air, shrinking green spaces, and rising stress – has resulted in rising health risks. Access to care remains limited, even as cities promise opportunity. Yet, few have addressed this crisis through deliberate, evidence-based planning. The distribution of health care still follows profit, not need. Hospitals cluster where land values and paying populations are high, while vast areas remain underserved. Market logic, not medical necessity, continues to decide who receives care and who does not.

Looking at planning

As India urbanises, fragmented planning risks locking in sedentary lifestyles, pollution and inequity. Integrating heart health into urban planning through coordinated land use, transport, housing, and green space is now essential. For decades, development has operated in silos: transport divorced from housing, green initiatives sidelined, and health rarely considered. Expressways have encouraged car dependence, fast-food zones have caused unhealthy diets, and traffic congestion has given rise to rising pollution. Integrated planning offers a remedy. Compact, mixed-use neighbourhoods can cut commutes, reduce emissions and promote active living. The World Health Organization (WHO)'s Healthy Cities Network shows that embedding health in governance lowers chronic disease risks. Reviving such an approach in India, supported by digital tools such as Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled air-quality and heat mapping, can make cities healthier and more resilient. Heart-healthy planning rests on interconnected pillars that address multiple crises at once and complement national missions such as the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), Smart Cities Mission, and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). There are some steps

The rise in cardiovascular disease in urban India points to the need for 'heart-friendly' urban planning

First, walkability and Active mobility: safe, shaded footpaths, cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings promote movement and lower risks of hypertension and diabetes.

Second, green infrastructure: tree cover, parks and urban forests cool neighbourhoods and filter air, reducing heat stress and pollution-linked heart attacks.

Third mixed land use: combining residential, commercial and recreational areas reduces commute times and car dependence, encouraging more active living.

Fourth, public transport systems: affordable, clean-energy transit improves access, reduces emissions, and shortens sedentary travel time.

Fifth, healthy food ecosystems: local markets, community gardens and restrictions on junk-food advertising help shift diets toward heart-friendly choices. Together, these measures amplify impact: green, walkable neighbourhoods with reliable transit cut pollution while improving activity, diet, and community connection – critical determinants of cardiovascular health.

Tackling invisible urban threats

Many urban health risks remain invisible yet deadly. Fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) from vehicles and industry triggers heart attacks and strokes, while concrete-heavy layouts trap heat, heightening cardiovascular stress. Poor water and waste systems worsen metabolic disorders. Without intervention, Asia could see a 91% rise in cardiovascular mortality by 2050.

Holistic planning offers practical remedies. Expanding tree cover enhances natural ventilation, renewable energy cuts emissions, and modern water and waste systems reduce toxic exposure. Digital innovations – AI-enabled sensors, citizen-reporting apps, and urban heat-mapping tools – can make these risks visible and actionable.

Embedding such systems within urban planning frameworks aligns with WHO's call to make health central to urban governance.

Equity must anchor every urban health strategy. Low-income communities endure the worst conditions – polluted air, poor connectivity, limited greenery and scarce health care. The India State-Level Disease Burden Study reports a 2.3-fold increase in cardiovascular disease among marginalised groups. Even well-intentioned projects risk "green gentrification", where parks and greenways displace those they were meant to benefit. Truly healthy cities must prioritise vulnerable areas, conduct equity audits, and involve communities in planning. Such participation prevents disparities, builds trust, and embeds prevention into daily life – strengthening campaigns such as Tobacco-Free Youth 3.0 by creating environments that make healthy choices easier.

An urban turning point

India's cities stand at the crossroads. Unchecked expansion could lock in unhealthy lifestyles for decades, but health-centred planning can turn them into models of resilience. Imagine Delhi's shaded corridors reducing pollution for walkers, Chennai's cycling routes tackling childhood obesity, or Surat's compact, transit-linked neighbourhoods lowering stress and emissions.

Building on the NUHM's outreach and the Asian Development Bank's $10-billion urban investment plan announced in 2025, India can embed heart health into its development agenda. Collaboration among the MoHUA, health agencies, academia and civil society can align land use, mobility, and environment with measurable well-being outcomes. Updating planning curricula, conducting digital equity audits and engaging youth through Urban October and beyond can help shape a new generation of health-conscious urban designers.

Ultimately, cardiovascular disease is not only a personal concern–it is a reflection of how cities are built. The air we breathe, the routes we travel, and the spaces we share shape health more than willpower alone. As India reflects on Urban Solutions to Crisis, the most enduring solution may be this: cities designed to nurture the human heart.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Winter session

It will be no surprise if the winter session of Parliament turns fractious, given that the Opposition is determined to raise issues such as Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, the Delhi bomb blast, and worsening pollution in the capital. The all-party meeting convened by the ruling party was dismissed as "ritualistic" and "useless" by an Opposition Member of Parliament. Clearly, consensus is impossible when the two sides of the political divide fail to see eye to eye.

Citizens expect greater maturity and wisdom from their leaders, along with a genuine effort to lift the quality of political discourse. In this context, one is left wondering why the ruling party does not take the initiative to hold more meaningful all-party meetings on key issues. Such consistent engagement could help bridge the widening gap, foster mutual trust, and encourage the Opposition to participate more constructively in parliamentary proceedings.

V. Nagarajan,
Chennai

Renaming Raj Bhavans

The Union Home Ministry's move, as a letter to the offices of Governors and Lieutenant-Governors, to rename all Raj Bhavans across India as Lok Bhavans is amusing (Inside pages, December 1). It is well-known that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government has been misusing the office of Governor in Opposition-ruled States to delay Bills, interfere in governance, and create political friction. The country requires substantive reforms and implementation rather than superficial rebranding efforts.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Capturing urban dynamism in the 2027 Census

Rejeet Mathews

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Senior Program Manager in the Sustainable Cities and Transport Program at WRI India. Views are personal

The 2027 Census will be the world's largest administrative exercise of its kind. The bedrock of India's policy, scheme design, and fiscal allocations, the Census provides a snapshot of the lived reality of citizens. The 2027 Census will have dedicated mobile apps for digital data collection, geo-tagging of buildings, and a real-time digital monitoring platform to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the exercise.

Recognising transitional areas

Capturing a comprehensive snapshot of the Indian populace requires another critical step: recognising transitional urban areas. According to official communications, Census 2027 proposes to retain the same definition of an urban area that was used in Census 2011 to ensure uniformity of comparison.

However, India already has a comparatively conservative definition of what constitutes 'urban' with a threefold criterion: population size, population density, and economic parameters. It also follows a binary classification of urban and rural, which does not capture peri-urban areas that are often located on the peripheries of cities and in villages that are transitioning to urban in situ. For instance, studies by the World Bank show that even in 2010, the share of India's population living in areas with urban-like features was 55.3%. However, Census 2011 recorded only a 31% urban population share, suggesting the existence of significant unseen and unrecorded urbanisation.

The UN Statistical Commission has introduced a global method, the 'Degree of Urbanisation', for a clearer delineation of urban, peri-urban, and rural areas. The Census 2027 could adopt a similar intervention to recognise peri-urban areas that typically fall under rural governance, and could benefit from targeted attention for planned growth and provision of basic services.

Getting a comprehensive snapshot of the Indian populace requires recognition of transitional urban areas

Delhi is set to be among the world's five largest agglomerations (by population), based on UN estimates. The 'true extent' of Delhi's agglomeration includes the contiguous cities of Gurugram, Faridabad, Noida, and Ghaziabad that span three different States/Union Territories. The UN considers such agglomerations by their true extent rather than by administrative boundaries, but the Census records them separately by their constituent urban local bodies, districts, and State boundaries, thereby obscuring the scale of their massive, interconnected urban footprint. Such agglomerations should be recognised endogenously as well in the Census, as they have interconnected economies and shared labour markets.

A spatial approach

How can this be done? The Census 2027 could adopt a spatial approach through an open-access geo-statistical portal with due regard for data anonymity, security, and interoperability with other national datasets. Such visual dashboards can dynamically reveal the true spatial extent of agglomerations highlighting where peri-urban growth is occurring. In addition to standard tabular data downloads, thematic visualisations like maps can spotlight areas that are under-provisioned in basic services or have high population density, thus providing deeper insights for effective implementation of municipal schemes. Municipal bodies could also be encouraged to update their information in real-time (instead of waiting for the next decennial Census) based on agreed protocols and processes with the Census. This will also foster a spirit of healthy competition among urban local bodies to showcase their progress in improving access to basic services. The dynamic modifications to ward and municipal boundaries to which statistical data are tagged often make it difficult to study the changing patterns over time. One of the ways to mitigate this issue is to use static spatial grids (such as a 1x1 km grid) as an additional overlay, amenable to administrative boundaries. Data interpolation from irregular administrative boundaries to regular grids could lead to distortions, and if the grids are too minute, they can also pose privacy and social concerns. This can be overcome with blended indicator-based themes that only show underserved areas and mask sensitive information such as caste or income groups. Similarly, blended data of age, ability, housing conditions, and service provision levels, when overlayed with climate hazard data, provides insights on vulnerable areas that require climate-proof investments. The overlays could also enable trend analysis once time series data get spatialised into the grid.

Globally, such geo-statistical formats have been adopted successfully by Mexico's INEGI and Britain's Ordnance Survey and Environmental Information Data Centre. India could also explore adopting a similar context-relevant and anonymised adaptation to enable targeted actions for a rapidly urbanising India.

Even as India's fertility rates decline, the country continues to grow on the back of its past population momentum. In this context, adopting a geostatistical approach with a modular framework along with the current statistical portal can greatly support policymakers, academia, the private sector, civil society groups, and home-grown startups to build innovative solutions. The approach can also be integrated with other government platforms such as Gati Shakti or Digital Postal Index Number, which divides India into a 4m X 4m grid-addressing system and is aligned with the 2022 National Geospatial Policy. A geo-statistical approach holds the potential to maximise impact while steering India towards a more inclusive and resilient urban future.

The AIADMK is on a weak footing

With the party's woes continuing, the DMK seems to firmly be in the driver's seat

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan
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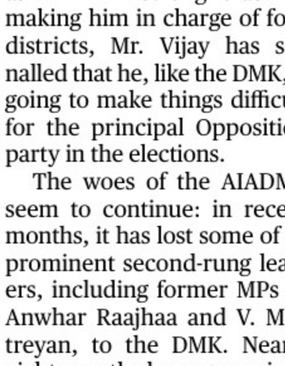
Last week, veteran leader K.A. Sengottaiyan, who was formerly with the All India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), joined the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) led by actor Vijay in Tamil Nadu, which is set to go to the polls next year.

Mr. Sengottaiyan, who is a former Transport and School Education Minister, was expelled from the AIADMK about a month ago. He felt sidelined by party general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami and resigned from his post as MLA of Gobichettipalayam constituency in Erode district before joining the fledgling TVK.

The move did not surprise many people. Mr. Sengottaiyan had only two options: to either walk over to the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) or join the TVK. He would have probably found the first option unacceptable, having been trained in anti-DMK politics for years. When there was pandemonium in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on March 25, 1989, the then Chief Minister, M. Karunanidhi, alleged that Mr. Sengottaiyan had hit his face and broken his spectacles. On the same day, AIADMK supremo and the Leader of the Opposition, Jayalalithaa, too, was attacked. When she attempted to exit the Assembly during the melee, a DMK Minister held the end of her sari. Against such a backdrop, joining the TVK was Mr. Sengottaiyan's best option as Mr. Vijay has, from the beginning of his political career, presented himself as a critic of the DMK.



Even though Mr. Sengottaiyan's critics feel that the senior leader has lowered his stature by joining the TVK, a recent entrant into the political arena, the former Minister, who was elected to the Assembly nine times since 1977, will be an asset to the TVK. There is no leader in the TVK who can match Mr. Sengottaiyan's experience in politics and election management. Mr. Sengottaiyan has been appointed the chief coordinator of TVK's high-level administrative committee and organisation secretary for four western districts, traditionally known as AIADMK strongholds. By making him in charge of four districts, Mr. Vijay has signalled that he, like the DMK, is going to make things difficult for the principal Opposition party in the elections.

The woes of the AIADMK seem to continue: in recent months, it has lost some of its prominent second-rung leaders, including former MPs A. Anwhar Raajhaa and V. Maitreyan, to the DMK. Nearly eight months have gone since the AIADMK and the BJP announced the revival of their relationship, yet they have not been able to attract any party with a considerable following to their side. If this situation continues, it is going to be difficult for the combine to take on the DMK-led front, which has been able to keep its flock together.

When the two parties announced the renewal of their ties on April 10, their proponents predicted that they would secure a vote share of 41%. The believed that both parties would retain their allies from the 2024 Lok Sabha elections through 2026 as well. It is now clear that the AIADMK is not going to get the support of all the constituents of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, which faced the electorate in April-May last year. One of the main reasons is that the Pattali Makkal Katchi, founded by S. Ramadoss in 1989, is heading towards a split. Mr. Ramadoss's year-long political rift with his son and former Union Health Minister Anbumani Ramadoss has only widened. The Election Commission's recent decision formally recognising Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss as the party president is likely to force the founder to chart his own course.

In the BJP, former State president K. Annamalai has often made remarks that have not been palatable either to the AIADMK or to Mr. Annamalai's successor, Nainar Nagenthran, who is keen on preserving ties with the AIADMK at least until the elections are over.

The Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), established by Vijayakant and now led by his wife Premalatha Vijayakant, seems to be keeping its options open, despite having exited the alliance with the AIADMK that was formed early last year. As other allies are on the fringes, their addition to the ranks of the Opposition will not make much of a difference to the outcome.

Unless the Naam Tamilar Katchi, which secured a vote share of about 8% in 2024, or the TVK joins the Opposition – either of which appears to be a remote possibility – the DMK-led coalition seems firmly in the driver's seat.

Is it the end of progress against extreme poverty?

Unless poorest economies start growing, progress against extreme poverty is over

DATA POINT

Max Roser

In the last few decades, the world has made fantastic progress against extreme poverty. In 1990, 2.3 billion people lived in extreme poverty. Since then, the number of extremely poor people has declined by 1.5 billion people.

Leaving the worst poverty behind does not mean a life free of want, but it does mean a big change. Additional income matters most for those who have the least. It means having the chance to leave hunger behind, to gain access to clean water and better healthcare, and to have at least some electricity – for light at night and perhaps even to cook and heat.

Can we expect this rapid progress to continue? Unfortunately, we cannot. Based on current trends, progress against extreme poverty will come to a halt. As we will see, the number of people in extreme poverty is projected to decline, from 831 million in 2025 to 793 million in 2030. After 2030, the number of extremely poor people is expected to increase.

Extreme poverty declined in the last three decades because, back in the 1990s, the majority of the poorest people on the planet lived in countries that subsequently achieved very fast economic growth. In Indonesia and China **(Chart 1A)**, more than two-thirds of the population lived in extreme poverty. But these economies then grew rapidly. Today, the share has declined to less than 10%. Other large Asian countries – including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Philippines **(Chart 1B)** – also achieved strong growth, and as a consequence, the share living in extreme poverty declined rapidly. Conditions in other regions improved too: the share living in extreme poverty also declined in Ghana, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Panama, Bolivia, Mexico, Brazil **(Chart 1C)**, and many other countries. Charts 1A to 1D show the share of population living in extreme poverty versus GDP per capita between 1990 and 2024 in select countries.

What is different today is that the majority of the world's poorest people are stuck in economies that have been stagnating for a long time. Consider the case of Madagascar. In the long run, the country has not seen any growth at all: GDP per capita in Madagascar is about the same today as it was in 1950. As a consequence, the number of people in extreme poverty increased in line with the country's population growth. In richer countries, it is possible to reduce poverty by reducing inequality through redistribution, but a country such as Madagascar cannot reduce its share of people in extreme poverty through redistribution. This is because the mean income is lower than the poverty line; if everyone had the same income, everyone would be living in extreme poverty.

The situation is similar in other countries, as the chart shows: in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Malawi, Burundi, and the Central African Republic **(Chart 1D)**, more than half of the population lives in extreme poverty. As their economies have stagnated, the deep poverty that most people live in has remained largely unchanged for decades.

This is why we have to expect the end of progress against extreme poverty based on current trends. If the poorest economies remain stagnant, hundreds of millions of people will continue to live in extreme poverty.

Many people say that we are at a juncture in history where the future looks different from the past. When it comes to the fight against extreme poverty, this is true. Today, the majority of the world's poorest people are living in economies that have not achieved economic growth in the recent past. The projection in **Chart 2** makes this difference clear: the future we can expect looks very different from the recent past.

Chart 2 is based on the latest available projection made by the researchers at the World Bank. Up to 2030, this projection is based on the latest growth projections from the World Bank and the International Monestary Fund. From 2031 onwards, poverty projections are based on the average growth rates observed from 2015 to 2024.

These projections show that we cannot expect a continuation of the strong decline of the past. After 2030, the number of people in extreme poverty is projected to increase. Based on current trends, we have to expect the end of progress against extreme poverty.

Chart 2 also shows how the geographic distribution of poverty has shifted. Three decades ago, most of the extremely poor people lived in Asia; today, most are in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the coming years, this trend is expected to continue. Growth in Asia will largely end extreme poverty in the region, while the economic stagnation and population growth in several African countries will mean that the number of people in extreme poverty there will stagnate or even increase. Of course, this is not just a concern until 2040: without rising incomes in the poorest regions, extreme poverty will remain a reality.

Importantly, however, these projections are not predictions; their purpose is not to describe what the world in 2030 or 2040 will certainly look like. What they tell us, however, is that if the poorest countries do not start to grow, a very bleak future is ahead of us: a future in which extreme poverty remains the reality for hundreds of millions for many years to come.

Max Roser is the founder and editor of Our World in Data, and is the Professor of Practice in Global Data Analytics at the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government

Stalled progress

The data for the charts were sourced from a study published by Our World in Data

CHART 1A,1B,1C,1D: The share of population in select countries who are living in extreme poverty vs. the countries' GDP per capita (1990 to 2024)

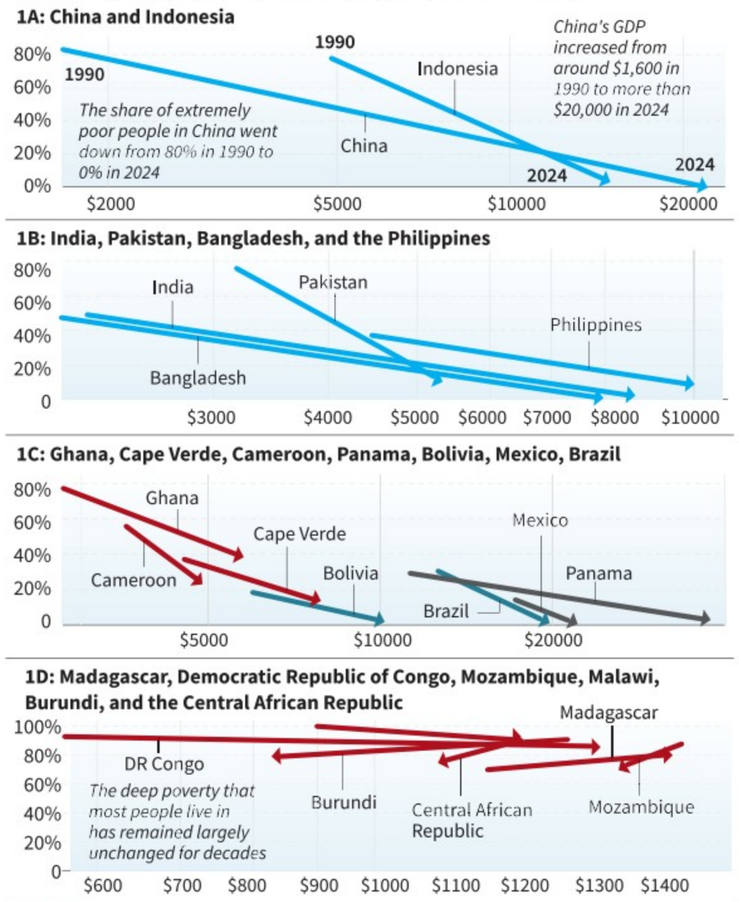
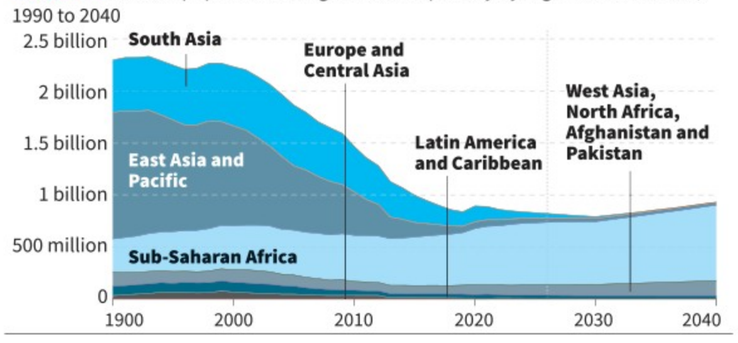


CHART 2: The total population living in extreme poverty by regions of the world, 1990 to 2040



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 2, 1975

Biggest aid to India from Britain as grant

New Delhi, Dec. 1: The British High Commissioner, Sir Michael Walker, will sign tomorrow four new aid agreements giving India as a straight grant a total of Rs. 167.7 crores, the biggest ever gift received by India in one lot from any donor nation. The Government of India has expressed its great appreciation of this very generous gesture whose significance is all the greater because Britain is making it at a time when its own economy is faced with serious problems. Apart from Sweden, no other aid-giving country, whether it is a Western or Soviet bloc nation, has so far accepted the concept of economic assistance to the third world as an international obligation. The signing of the four aid agreements to-morrow comes as the starting point for the implementation of the new aid policy of Britain which is based on the principle that all economic assistance to developing countries with a per capita income of less than 200 dollars should be given as grants instead of loans to help them achieve self-sufficiency within a reasonable span of time.

Though Sweden is the only country which has been pursuing this policy, the grants given by it have been relatively small despite the fact that its economy can afford to bear much bigger burdens. But no big power, not even the United States, has so far subscribed to this concept though it has written off from time to time enormous debts that have accumulated over the years through concessional sales of foodgrains under PL 480 programme.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 2, 1925

Indians in Zanzibar

The Indian National Association cabled to "The Indian Daily Mail" under date, Zanzibar, November 28: The agents of the British India Steam Navigation Company have entirely stopped the issuing of permits for all Indians visiting ships bound for Bombay thus even necessitating women to go on board alone. Sons and husbands cannot accompany them up to the ships. No valid reasons prompting such a drastic measure are given. Serious resentment against this order prevails. If immediate instruction to withdraw this restriction are not issued, serious difficulties are apprehended between the Company and the shipping and travelling Indian community.

From Page One

SC gives CBI free hand to stop 'digital arrests'

The court directed the CBI to identify police officers from different States, and domain experts, to aid the investigation. "We want the CBI to undertake a comprehensive investigation on identified cybercrimes on a pan-India basis," Chief Justice Kant observed.

Considering the magnitude of the 'digital arrest' scams and widespread tentacles of the fraudsters, the Supreme Court directed the CBI to coordinate with the Interpol to identify cybercrime havens abroad. The court impleaded and issued notice to the Reserve Bank of India to respond on the use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to trace 'layering' or the moving of the proceeds of crime through multiple bank accounts to escape detection.

Invoking the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules of 2021, the apex court directed online intermediaries to cooperate with the CBI, and provide the agency assistance with regard to data in connection with investigation into 'digital arrest' cases.

States and Union Territories have to ensure the establishment and operationalisation of regional cybercrime coordination centres to compile data on cybercrimes, and for initiating preventive measures against the offence, the court directed. They should be linked to the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), which is designed to provide an ecosystem for law enforcement agencies to deal with cybercrime in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

The court said telecom operators had been careless in issuing SIM cards.

Govt. moves Bills for pan masala, tobacco levies

According to sources in the Ministry of Finance, this repayment will be completed in the next few months.

However, with the removal of this cess, the effective tax rate on and revenues from tobacco products would fall significantly.

To overcome this shortfall in revenue, the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill has been introduced "in order to give the government, the fiscal space to increase the rate of Central excise duty on tobacco and tobacco products so as to protect tax incidence".

"With the levy of GST and compensation cess on tobacco and tobacco products, the rates of central excise duties were reduced significantly to allow for the levy of compensation cess without large impact on their tax incidence," the 'Statement of objects and reasons' of the Bill said.

The Health Security *se* National Security Cess Bill seeks to "augment the resources for meeting expenditure on national security and for public health" by levying a cess on the "machines installed, or other processes undertaken in the manufacture of pan masala".

The Bill also allows for the imposition of this cess on "any other goods which may be notified".

"The cess is linked to the production capacity of machines or other processes rather than the quantity actually produced of such specified goods," according to the 'Statement of objects and reasons' of the Bill.

Bioterrorism a serious threat, world not ready: Jaishankar

Union Minister warns that 'non-state actors' can use biological agents; he says such threats cannot be handled in isolation, pitches for keeping Global South at the centre of strategies to tackle them

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The world is not yet "adequately prepared" to deal with the threat of bioterrorism, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said here on Monday.

Speaking at a conference on 50 years of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Mr. Jaishankar said "non-state actors" can resort to use of biological agents and that the Global South should be at the centre of preparations to deal with bioweapons.

"Bioterrorism is a serious concern that the international community has to be adequately prepared for. Yet the BWC still lacks basic institutional structures," said Mr. Jaishankar.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressing a conference on the Biological Weapons Convention in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

'No compliance system'

"It has no compliance system, it has no permanent technical body and no mechanism to track new scientific developments. These gaps must be bridged in order to strengthen confidence," said the Minister, calling for BWC's modernisation.

India 'committed to non-proliferation of sensitive and dual-use goods and technologies'

He said India has proposed a National Implementation Framework that will cover "high-risk agents, oversight of dual-use research, domestic reporting and incident management".

Mr. Jaishankar said India is "committed to ensuring the non-proliferation of sensitive and dual-use goods and technologies", and this has been supported by India's strong legal and regulatory system.

Role of Global South

The Minister said biological threats cannot be handled by countries in isolation from international stakeholders and called for making the Global South central to BWC.

He described "unequal access to vaccines and medicines" as not just development issues but as "global risks".

"The Global South is the most vulnerable and has the most to gain from stronger biosecurity. It also has the most to contribute. Its voice must therefore shape the next 50 years of the BWC," said Mr. Jaishankar, who highlighted India's 'vaccine diplomacy' that took shape against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Armed forces to procure additional Heron Mk II UAVs

Saurabh Trivedi
TEL AVIV

The Indian Army has already deployed Heron drones in forward bases.

To enhance their unmanned capabilities in the wake of Operation Sindoor, the Indian armed forces have signed up for more satellite-linked Heron Mk II Unmanned Aerial Vehicles under emergency procurement, sources in the Israeli defence industry said.

According to the sources, the Army and Air Force, which already operate Heron Mk II drones, have placed additional orders while the Indian Navy is acquiring them for the first time. The Navy, which has long relied on Israeli-made Searcher UAVs for surveillance, will soon transition to the more advanced Heron Mk II platform.

As per existing guidelines, under emergency procurement, armed forces can procure weapons systems, including entire systems, up to ₹300 crore.

The Heron family, especially the Heron Mk II, has emerged as a key component of evolving combat environments due to its versatility and proven reliability. Indian Army has deployed these drones at forward bases in northern sector.

In line with India's push for defence indigenisation, several Israel defence industries, including state-owned defence manufacturers, are working with defence PSUs and private partners to enhance local production. The companies are also creating training, maintenance and integration capabilities within India, the official said.

Manipur govt. forms panels to support displaced people

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A day after Manipur's violence-displaced people yearning to return home launched a month-long protest, the State government formed high-level panels to "strengthen" their rehabilitation and resettlement.

The ethnic conflict between tribal Kuki-Zo and non-tribal Meitei communities, which broke out in May 2023, claimed the lives of more than 260 people and displaced 62,000 others. About 58,000 of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to live in relief camps.

In a statement on Monday, the Manipur government said the move to set up the panels reflected its commitment to ensuring a coordinated, responsive, and people-centric approach to restoring stability and supporting affected families.

"The State-Level Committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary and comprising the Commissioners of Finance, Home, and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, with the Special or Additional Secretary (Home) serving as the Convenor, will provide strategic oversight and policy direction," the statement read.

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) is supporting the protest.

Delhi blast: NIA searches houses of 3 arrested men in Shopian and Pulwama

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI

Widening its investigation into the Red Fort blast, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday raided the residence of Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay in Shopian district, as well as those of Muzammil Shakeel and Amir Rashid in Pulwama district.

The agency arrested the three for their alleged links with Umar un Nabi, the bomber who drove the car at Red Fort on November 10. Fifteen civilians were killed in the blast.

Officials said the searches were aimed at "collecting clues, including the digital footprint of the accused", related to the blast. They said financial trails were also under the scanner.

Security forces during a raid carried out by the National Investigation Agency in Pulwama on Monday. PTI

Searches were also carried out in Awantipora and Kulgam in J&K and a location in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

The probe agency has arrested seven key accused so far in the case.

Al-Falah chairman sent to judicial custody

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday sent Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, founder and chairman of Al-Falah University, to 14-day judicial custody. He is an accused in a money laundering case connected to the ongoing investigation into the Red Fort blast, which killed 15 people.

Additional Sessions Judge Sheetal Chaudhary Pradhan sent him to judicial custody till December 15 after he was produced in the court on the expiry of 13-day Enforcement Directorate custody. Mr. Siddiqui moved an application seeking directions to allow him to take prescribed medication. The same was allowed by the court.

SC to take up case on 'coercing' Anganwadi workers into SIR duty

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday took note of a plea that Anganwadi workers are being pushed into booth level officer work for the special intensive revision (SIR) of poll rolls in Tamil Nadu under the threat of imprisonment and loss of jobs.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, for Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), said Anganwadi workers were under "severe pressure" to attain "targets" in the distribution of enumeration forms for the SIR.

He said the Anganwadi staff thrust into the SIR work were threatened with three months' imprisonment under Section 32 of the Representation of the People Act of 1950 for the breach of official duty in connection with the preparation, etc, of electoral rolls" if their targets were not met. They would also lose their jobs.

Chief Justice Kant said the issue would be taken up separately when the batch of petitions challenging the Tamil Nadu SIR came up for hearing later during the week.

"There have already been 21 instances of BLOs taking their own lives," the senior counsel submitted

"You are saying Anganwadi workers should not be employed in the SIR exercise..." Chief Justice Kant said.

Mr. Sankaranarayanan said the issue was more human than legal. He however informed the court that the enumeration phase has been extended from December 4 to December 11.

The plea in the Supreme Court follows a complaint filed by a Mumbai-based advocate in the National Human Rights Commission against the "inhuman workload and coercive pressure" imposed on BLOs during the second phase of the SIR, resulting in multiple cardiac arrests, collapses and deaths.

Deaths of BLOs have been reported in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Many airports complained of GPS spoofing, says Centre

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Complaints regarding GPS spoofing or counterfeit satellite signals experienced by aircraft were received from airports in Kolkata, Amritsar, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai, the Centre informed Parliament on Monday.

In response to a question from YSRCP MP S. Niranjan Reddy, Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu admitted that "some flights" encountered GPS spoofing in the vicinity of Delhi airport as reported by *The Hindu* on November 7 about such events in the first week of the month.

The Minister said following the events, "the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has requested Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) to identify the source of interference/ spoofing." The WMO has also been directed to mobilise more resources to trace the sources based on approximate spoofing location details shared by the DGCA and the AAI.

Number of govt. schools falls, but those with fewer than 10 students see a steady rise

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The number of government schools across the country has declined over the last six years, data tabled by the Union Government in Parliament on Monday showed.

The data presented by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan from the Unified District Information System for Education Plus further showed a steady rise in the number of government schools with fewer than 10 or zero student enrolments over the past three years.

The data was compiled in response to a starred question in Lok Sabha by Congress MPs Karti Chidambaram and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. It showed that in 2022-23, there were 52,300 government schools with fewer than 10 or zero student enrolments, a figure that rose to more than 65,000 in 2024-25. States like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana accounted for the highest number of these schools.

Dharmendra Pradhan

UDISE+ data show India had 10.32 lakh govt. schools in 2019-20 that fell to 10.13 lakh in 2024-25

Interestingly, the data revealed that the number of teachers employed at these schools rose from 1.26 lakh in 2022-23 to 1.44 lakh in 2024-25. Mr. Pradhan, in his response, noted that while education is on the concurrent list of the Constitution, "the recruitment, remuneration and rational deployment of teachers fall under the purview of respective State Governments/ U.T. Administrations".

In response to questions on government schools that had been closed, merged, or repurposed due to low or zero enrolment, the government submitted UDISE+ data showing an overall decline in the number of schools across all States and UTs. The dataset revealed that the country had 10.32 lakh government schools in 2019-20, which fell to 10.13 lakh in 2024-25, without specifying how much of this reduction was due to closures, mergers, or repurposing.

When asked about the status and annual reports of government schools, Mr. Pradhan said under the regulations issued by the Department of Expenditure in 2016, State and U.T. governments submit annual and audit reports to their respective Assemblies first before sending them to the Centre for presentation in Parliament. Union Territories without legislatures send the reports directly to the Centre. The government did not clarify when the last such report was submitted.

Regional language education offered in 16% of KVs: govt. data

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Five years after the Union government introduced the National Education Policy 2020, which brought flexibility in the three-language formula, government data tabled in Parliament on Monday showed that 16% of the Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) across the country offer regional language education in 10 languages.

Data submitted in the Lok Sabha on Monday by the Union Education Ministry showed that in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV), also run by the Union government, a significantly higher proportion of schools offer regional language education in at least one of 18 "local languages". However, this included Hindi in the list of local languages.

The local/regional language is included as a compulsory subject in all Navodaya Vidyalayas from Classes VI to IX, the government said.

While the data provided by the Ministry showed how many of these schools are teaching which languages, it did not specify in which States these schools were in.

The government was responding to a question by Trinamool Congress MP Sharmila Sarkar. It noted that there were 1,405 sanctioned KVs and 689 sanctioned JNVs across the country. Of these schools, 226 KVs offer regional language education in 10 languages – Gujarati, Kannada, Punjabi, Tamil, Malayalam, Assamese, Bodo, Marathi, Bengali, and Manipuri.

Three-language policy

As per policy, Hindi and English education are mandatory at KVs from Classes I to VIII. From Classes VI-VIII, Sanskrit is mandatorily added to this, and in Classes IX and X, students can choose any two between English, Hindi, and Sanskrit. This comes amid the ongoing political discourse over the three-language formula prescribed in NEP 2020.

Of the 226 KVs that offer regional language education, Punjabi is taught in most number of schools.

Lok Sabha passes Manipur GST Bill amid disruptions over SIR

The Bill replaces an Ordinance which implemented reforms in Goods and Services Tax in Manipur; statutory resolution moved by Revolutionary Socialist Party member N.K. Premachandran disapproving the Bill was rejected by a voice vote

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and other leaders on the first day of the Winter Session in the Lok Sabha on Monday. PTI

The Lok Sabha, on the first day of the Winter Session on Monday, passed a Bill to replace an Ordinance which implemented reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in Manipur.

There were frequent disruptions as the Opposition insisted on a debate on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls under way in nine States and three Union Territories.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the afternoon, after one round of disruption.

The Bill was passed post-lunch after a brief discussion, and a statutory resolution moved by Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) member N.K. Premachandran disapproving the Bill was rejected by a voice vote as Opposition members were protesting in the Well of the House. As soon as the House assembled on Monday, Speaker Om Birla began proceedings by paying respects to former members who passed away recently.

Mr. Birla then congratulated the women's teams for winning the ICC World Cup 2025 and the T20 Cricket World Cup for the Blind; the women's kabaddi team that won the World Cup; and the athletes representing India at the Deaflympics.

But as soon as the Question Hour was taken up, Opposition members started shouting slogans pressing for a discussion on the SIR. Mr. Birla tried running the House for about 20 minutes before adjourning until noon.

When the House reassembled, Ms. Sitharaman introduced three Bills, including one to levy excise duty on tobacco and tobacco products and another to impose a new cess on the manufacture of pan masala, apart from tabling supplementary demands for grants for 2025-2026. The House functioned for about 12 minutes before it was adjourned until 2 p.m.

When the House met at 2 p.m., Telugu Desam Party (TDP) member Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was in the Chair, called Mr. Premachandran to speak on the resolution, but the RSP member told the presiding officer that the House was not in order.

The Chair then called BJP member Shashank Mani, who spoke in favour of the Bill.

The Bill was then passed by a voice vote amid vociferous protests by Opposition parties, who trooped into the Well of the House. Following this, the House was adjourned for the day.

Rajya Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan conducting proceedings in the House during the Winter Session on Monday. PTI

Radhakrishnan urged to be impartial as he chairs first RS session

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan received rich tributes across party lines as he presided over his first session on Monday. Opposition leaders urged him to remain impartial and maintain a balance between the two sides.

The otherwise cordial debate saw a flashpoint when Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge referred to the "unexpected and sudden exit" of Mr. Radhakrishnan's predecessor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, triggering loud protests from the Treasury Benches.

Replying to the felicitations, Mr. Radhakrishnan said his humble journey from Tiruppur, the knitwear capital, to New Delhi, the national capital, showed the remarkable power of democracy. "This rise makes me more conscious of the duties and responsibilities of the Chair," he said.

"Let us commit ourselves to ensuring that our actions inside this House reflect the aspirations of every farmer, every worker, every street vendor, every woman and youth, and the poorest of the poor who look at Parliament with a lot of hopes," the Vice-President added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Mr. Radhakrishnan's journey from a modest farming background to a key constitutional post as a reflection of the strength of Indian democracy.

He described the Chairman's life as one of "unwavering dedication to social service".

Mr. Kharge said, "The Chairman belongs as much to the Opposition as to the government." He expressed regret that the House could not bid farewell to the outgoing Chairman. Treasury Benches immediately rose in protest. Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju interjected to say that such references were unnecessary.

Declining sittings

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien wished Mr. Radhakrishnan good health and urged him to safeguard federalism. He flagged concerns over declining sittings of Parliament and reduced opportunities for discussion. "Between 2009 and 2016, 110 discussions were allowed. In the last 8 years, it's down to 36 discussions...," he said.

Opposition demands SIR discussion, walks out

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition walked out of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the fist day of the Winter Session, demanding that the Union government announce a discussion on electoral reforms.

Though Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the Centre was not averse to holding a discussion and sought time, the Opposition members said their demand was urgent, as about two dozen booth-level officers (BLO) had died by suicide after the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls began in several States.

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien raised the issue first. He asked the government to initiate a discussion immediately. He said Mr. Rijiju had told an all-party meeting that he would "come back" to the Opposition leader on the demand for a discussion on the electoral reforms.

At this point, Mr. Radhakrishnan sought Mr. Rijiju's response. "Nobody is undermining any matter which was brought forth by the Opposition party in the all-party meeting or Business Advisory Committee meeting. What I am saying is, it is under the consideration of the government," Mr. Rijiju said. "... If you set a condition that it has to be taken up today itself, then it becomes difficult, because you have to give certain space," he added.

Mr. Kharge supported Mr. O'Brien and said all Opposition floor leaders had met at his chamber on Monday and taken a decision to raise the issue of SIR in one voice.

Parliament is a place for delivery, not drama: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the media on the first day of Parliament Winter Session on Monday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Parliament is not a place for drama but for delivery, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday ahead of the start of the Winter Session of Parliament. "For some time now, our Parliament is being used either as a warm-up arena for elections or as an outlet for frustration after defeat," Mr. Modi said, targeting the Opposition.

Addressing presspersons outside Parliament, he said the session must not become a stage for political theatrics but a platform for constructive and result-driven debate. Mr. Modi offered to give the Opposition tips to bring "positivity into politics". "We need to work with a sense of responsibility," he said.

The Monsoon Session was virtually washed out over the Opposition's protests on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. The Opposition has threatened to stall the Winter Session over the SIR exercise in nine States and three Union Territories if it is not discussed in Parliament.

Referring to the drubbing received by the Opposition parties in the Bihar Assembly election, Mr. Modi said they were perturbed by the electoral loss and unable to digest failure.

'Fulfil responsibility'

"Defeat should not be the ground to create disruption. Victory should not convert into arrogance either," he said. The record turnout witnessed in the Bihar election was the biggest strength of democracy, he said, adding that the Opposition too should fulfil its responsibility and "come out of its depression after loss in elections".

"The game the Opposition has been playing for the last 10 years is no longer acceptable to the people," he said. "They should change their strategy – I am ready to give them a few tips," he said, urging all parties to recognise the purpose of Parliament and "come out of the frustration of defeat".

"There are one or two parties that are unable to accept their defeat. From the statements I heard yesterday, it seems that the loss has deeply troubled them," he said.

Opportunities should be given to the new generation of MPs, he said. "The House should benefit from their experiences, and through this House, the nation should also gain from their fresh perspective," the Prime Minister said.

Priyanka slams Modi, says raising issues of people is not 'drama'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim that the Opposition protests in Parliament were mere drama, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday said the real "drama" was in the government's refusal to allow discussions on issues of public importance.

"What is Parliament for? Speaking about and raising issues is not drama. Drama is the refusal to allow discussion and the absence of democratic debate on matters of public concern," she told presspersons outside Parliament.

"We have spoken about air pollution. Why are we not allowed to discuss these issues?" she added.

Her brother and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, declined to comment when reporters asked him to respond to the Prime Minister.

"The Prime Minister says, 'enjoy the weather'. What weather should the people of Delhi enjoy? At least take a peek outside to see what is happening in the country," Ms. Vadra said. She termed the air quality issue in Delhi shameful and said everyone must come together to take strong steps to tackle the problem and save the health of children, the elderly, and those already suffering from respiratory issues.

"I really feel that this situation is shameful. This is the capital city of our country. I feel that we should set aside party affiliations and, in alliance with administrative, political, civil society, and judicial elements, take some strong steps," she said.

Opposition divided over strategy on SIR, decides to play by ear

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Parties decide to hold protests on Monday and Tuesday and take a fresh call on Wednesday

At a meeting of Opposition parties on Monday morning, there was a variance in views over continuing the protests against the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The decision was taken only for the floor strategy on Monday and Tuesday, according to sources. The Opposition would take a call based on the government's response to their demand for a debate on "electoral reforms", under which they hoped to flag the "anomalies" and "malpractices" in the SIR.

The Trinamool Congress, which skipped the meeting, remains insistent on keeping the focus on the SIR in this session.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, spoke at length about how the SIR was being "misused" by the ruling party. The Opposition, he said, was not given the final electoral rolls in time for scrutiny. The SIR contributed to the National Democratic Alliance's victory in Bihar, Mr. Gandhi told the gathering.

Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Ram Gopal Yadav alleged that the names of minority voters were being systematically weeded out in the SIR in Uttar Pradesh and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was himself monitoring the exercise.

A few parties opined it would not be wise to hold a continuous protest on the SIR. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) Parliamentary Party leader Kanimozhi held the view that other subjects needed attention too.

In the end, it was decided that protests would continue on Monday and Tuesday, and a fresh call would be taken for the rest of the week at a meeting on Wednesday, based on the government's response.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LAKSHADWEEP
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES)
KAVARATTI ISLAND-682 555, Phone: 04896 263650
Email: gnckavaratti@gmail.com
F.No. 5/46/2021-DHS Dated: 26.11.2025

NOTIFICATION

Application for the post **Assistant Professor** on contract for Govt. Nursing College, Kavaratti, U.T. of Lakshadweep has been invited. The application and other details can be had from **www.lakshadweep.gov.in.** The last date of submission of application will be on **17th December 2025.**

Sd/- (M. BHARANI, DANICS)
DIRECTOR HEALTH SERVICES

सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाइन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in** /respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in**"

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/o The Superintending Engineer (Projects-C,N&EZ),GHMC, Hyderabad
Tender Notice No. 11/SE (P-C,N&EZ)/GHMC/2025-26, Dated: 01.12.2025

Item No.	Name of Work	Estimate Amount
1.	"Construction of 6 lane bi directional flyover crossing TKR College Junction, Gayathri Nagar Junction and Mandamallamma Junction under Engineering procurement construction (EPC) / Turkey"	Rs. 416.00 Crores
	Total:	Rs. 416.00 Crores

S.No.	Events:	Date and Time
1.	Start date	04-12-2025 from 04.00 PM
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	11-12-2025 at 03.00 PM Location: O/o Chief Engineer (Projects), GHMC, 6th Floor, GHMC Head Office Tank Bund, Hyderabad
3.	Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	20-12-2025 upto 03.00 PM
4.	Opening of Technical bid	20-12-2025 after 04.00 PM
5	Opening of Price bid	22-12-2025 after 04.00 PM

Note: The Bidders are advised to visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in to download Bid Document and EPC project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to seprojectsnez@gmail.com

Address of the officer concerned Sri P. Mohan Reddy, SE(P-C,N&EZ), 9989930369. Superintending Engineer (P-C,N&EZ), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.** Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Projects-P-C,N&EZ) GHMC

DIPR R.O.No.11565-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 01.12.2025

SRI FUND
SELF RELIANT INDIA FUND

RFP for Legal Advisor

Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund, a scheme of NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited requires services of a reputed Law Firm with experience and expertise in comprehensive handling of assignments relating to AIFs, VCFs, PEs etc and to act as Legal Advisor to Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund. The tenure for appointment would be for 5 years.

Indian Law Firms, qualifying the eligibility conditions prescribed in the RFP, may submit their proposals latest by **14.00 Hrs on 22nd December 2025**. The RFP can be downloaded from the website of NVCFL (www.nvcfl.co.in).

S/d
CFO, SRI Fund
Tel:011-26924510, email :akkansal@nvcfl.co.in

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 :
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 360/SS(D)-391/Spares | Dated: 28.11.2025

Dy. CE/Substation(Design)/TS Organization, C-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites e-Tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of Tubular Type Lead Acid DC Batteries of various ratings (with and without Buy-back of Old Dismantled Batteries). For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 02.12.2025 (11:00 AM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C 836/25 1079/12/2025-26/5610

(Govt. of Karnataka)
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBLI
No. : KMCRI/SUP(5)/MANNEQUIN/TENDER-01/252/2025-26 dated 29.11.2025

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. & ಆರ್.ಐ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ **Skill Laboratory**ಗೆ **MANNEQUINS, ENDOTRAINER WITH TURNKEY PROJECT** ಮೂಲಕ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

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INBRIEF

Army conducts combat launch of BrahMos cruise missile

The Indian Army carried out a combat launch of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile on Monday from a test range in the Bay of Bengal. The Ministry of Defence confirmed that the mission was executed through a precisely coordinated effort involving a BrahMos unit of the Southern Command and elements of the Tri-Services Andaman & Nicobar Command. Lt. Gen. Dhiraj Seth, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, lauded the successful combat launch. The launch boosts the Army's long-range strike capability and deterrence.

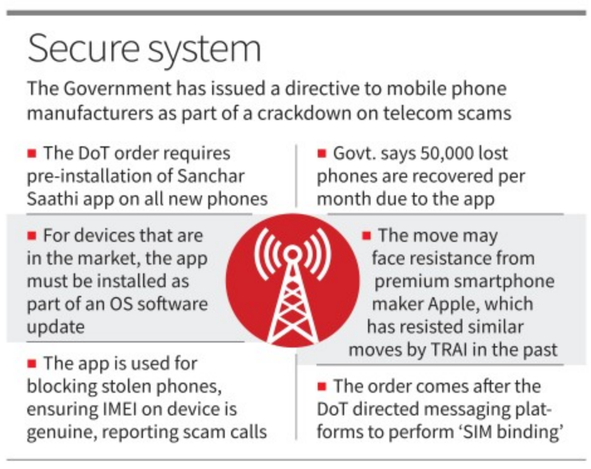
SC declines plea for extending time to upload Waqf details

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to intervene in a batch of petitions seeking extension of time for the mandatory uploading of registered Waqf properties, including 'Waqf by user', on the UMEED portal. A Bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih gave petitioners liberty to approach the Waqf tribunal concerned. According to the mandate of the UMEED portal, details of all registered Waqf properties across India are to be uploaded within six months. Petitioners said the portal was faulty ahead of the December 6 deadline; Kapil Sibal sought liberty to return, and the Bench said they may do so if problems recur.

Sanchar Saathi app must be pre-installed on phones: DoT

It must be installed on devices sold from March, govt. tells phone makers; move will help safeguard people from buying non-genuine handsets and enable easy reporting of telecom resource misuse

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI


Secure system
The Government has issued a directive to mobile phone manufacturers as part of a crackdown on telecom scams
The DoT order requires pre-installation of Sanchar Saathi app on all new phones
Govt. says 50,000 lost phones are recovered per month due to the app
For devices that are in the market, the app must be installed as part of an OS software update
The move may face resistance from premium smartphone maker Apple, which has resisted similar moves by TRAI in the past
The app is used for blocking stolen phones, ensuring IMEI on device is genuine, reporting scam calls
The order comes after the DoT directed messaging platforms to perform 'SIM binding'

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Monday ordered smartphone manufacturers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app on new devices sold from March 2026, and to make sure "that [the app's] functionalities are not disabled or restricted".

The Hindu has viewed a copy of the directions. The Sanchar Saathi app will be used to "verify authenticity of IMEIs used in mobile devices," the order said. It is unclear if the app will have access to the IMEI number of devices it is pre-installed on, or if users will have to input the hardware identifier on their own.

In a statement, the DoT said the move was meant to "safeguard the citizens from buying the non-genuine handsets, enabling easy reporting of suspected misuse of telecom resources and to increase effectiveness of the Sanchar Saathi initiative". The Sanchar Saathi app, first introduced as a portal in 2023, has been used to report scam calls, enable users to identify SIM cards registered in their name, and remotely disable phones if they are stolen. It is much like the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) DND app, the commercial spam equivalent.

2.48 lakh complaints

The government has promoted the app, with 2.48 lakh complaints received so far on the platform, according to a dashboard on the site. Almost 2.9 crore requests to see mobile connections associated with a certain user have been made, the site says.

"Spoofed/Tampered IMEIs in telecom network leads to situation where same IMEI is working in different devices at different places simultaneously and pose challenges in action against such IMEIs," the DoT said.

"India has a big second-hand mobile device market. "Cases have also been observed where stolen or blacklisted devices are being re-sold. It makes the purchaser abettor in crime and causes financial loss to them. The blocked/blacklisted IMEIs can be checked using Sanchar Saathi App." In a Google Play listing for the app, the DoT declared that the app does not collect any user data. In a separate statement, the DoT also defended its order to messaging platforms.

The "DoT's SIM-binding directions are essential to plug a concrete security gap that cybercriminals are exploiting to run large-scale, often cross-border, digital frauds," the DoT said.

"Accounts on instant messaging and calling apps continue to work even after the associated SIM is removed, deactivated or moved abroad, enabling anonymous scams, remote "digital arrest" frauds and government-impersonation calls using Indian numbers."

Some smartphone makers have resisted government mandates to pre-install apps around the world. Apple, for instance, resisted the TRAI's draft regulations to install a spam-reporting app, after the firm balked at the TRAI app's permissions requirements, which included access to SMS messages and call logs.

Sanchar Saathi helped recover 50,000 lost or stolen devices in October, the DoT said.

Parts of India may get more 'cold wave' days this year: IMD

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Vendors warm themselves by a small fire on a cold morning in New Delhi. PTI

There will be more than the usual number of "cold wave" days over Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, eastern Uttar Pradesh, northern Madhya Pradesh, western Maharashtra, and Arunachal Pradesh, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

When the minimum temperature of a station is 10 degrees celsius or less in the plains and zero degrees celsius or less in hilly regions, it is considered a "cold wave" day. If temperatures dip 4.5 degrees Celsius to 6.4 degrees Celsius below what is normal for a region – irrespective of its geographical location – then too it can count as a "cold wave".

"The winter months from December to February are likely to be normal to below-normal minimum temperatures and are likely over most parts of central India, adjoining peninsular India, and northwest India, while above-normal minimum temperatures are expected in the remaining parts of the country. Cold wave occurrences are expected to be above normal over parts of central, northwest, and northeast India during the season," the agency said in a statement.

The reasons for longer cold wave spells are fewer western disturbances – rain-bearing storms that originate in the Mediterranean region. Moisture from rain tends to increase minimum temperatures.

"This is also a La Nina year (characterised by cooler temperatures in the Central Pacific). While there is no direct correlation, historically La Nina years tend to correlate with cold waves," said M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD. He added that cold wave spells had already begun in November in northern India due to a Polar Vortex.

New HIV cases highest in Mizoram, says report

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

New HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population stood at 0.05 nationally in 2024, a report released on Monday said. Mizoram (0.90) reported the highest estimated annual new HIV incidence rate, followed by Nagaland (0.42) and Tripura (0.28), the *India HIV estimate 2025 technical report* further said.

Annual new cases declined nationally by around 48.70% between 2010 and 2024, but increased by more than 400% in Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.

Globally, annual new infections had declined by 40% from 2010 to 2024. The report said annual AIDS-related mortality rate per 1,00,000 population was estimated nationally at 2.32.

Nine major bank fraud accused among 15 fugitive economic offenders: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The total principal amount on loans linked to the 15 fugitives was ₹26,645 crore

Fifteen people have been declared wanted by various courts under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA) as of October 31, 2025, nine of whom are linked to large-scale financial frauds against public sector banks, the Finance Ministry informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

Two fugitive economic offenders have opted for a one-time settlement. The cumulative principle amount as on the date when the loans associated with the 15 fugitives were declared non-performing assets was ₹26,645 crore. The interests accrued till October 31, 2025, amounted to ₹31,437 crore. While ₹19,187 crore was recovered, the settlement amount stood at ₹1,630 crore with ₹3,542 crore as discounts offered. In a written reply to a query from member Murari Lal Meena, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the list of fugitive offenders included Nirav Modi; Vijay Mallya; Nitin Sandesara, Chetan Sandesara, and Dipti C. Sandesara of the Sterling Group; Hitesh Kumar; Narendrabhai Patel; Sudharshan Venkataraman and Ramanujam Seshadrathinam of Zylog Systems Limited; and Pushpesh Kumar Baid.

Nitin and Chetan Sandesara have settled certain dues with Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, and State Bank of India.

Responding to another query from member Shatrughan Prasad Sinha, the Ministry said that since June 2014, 120 people had been convicted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had registered 6,312 cases under the Act and filed 1,805 main prosecution complaints and 568 supplementary complaints as of October 31. Following an amendment to the law in August 2019, the ED should submit closure reports before a Special Judge under the Act. Since then, it has filed closure reports in 93 cases where no offence of money laundering was established, including cases where the predicate offence had been quashed.

Farmers cannot be made scapegoats for air pollution in national capital: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said on Monday that farmers could not be made scapegoats for air pollution in the national capital, asking why the blue sky was visible during the pandemic time when stubble burning was on while vehicles were off the roads.

"Stubble burning happened during COVID time. Why could we still see the sky? There is no need to play politics with this issue or unnecessarily have an ego," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant addressed the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) and *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Aparajita Singh, among others in the courtroom.

Burning drop

A lawyer said cases of stubble burning had come down from 88,000 to 5,500, yet the pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) had not abated. The Chief Justice said farmers need to be sensitised, and crop stubble could be converted into an asset rather than being treated as a liability.

Clean-air push: An anti-smog gun spraying water to curb air pollution in New Delhi on Monday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the CAQM, said the target in 2025 was "zero stubble burning", but that had not been the situation on the ground.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, also on the Bench, said the authorities had to look into quelling other sources of air pollution emanating from vehicles, road dust, and construction debris. Justice Bagchi said the CAQM and other authorities might have an action plan on paper, but how much of it was actually implemented on the ground.

"This is an issue which affects each and every one of us in the NCR. Its repercussions go beyond the boundaries of NCR... If you think the situation on the ground has not met your legitimate expectations, then do you not think you should revisit your action plan?" the CJI asked the CAQM.

Proactive measures

The previous Bench headed by Justice Gavai (now retired) had given the CAQM a free hand to take "any proactive measure" to curb air pollution throttling Delhi-NCR after the statutory body proposed advancing choice GRAP IV restrictions such as work-from-home and 50% office attendance to the ongoing GRAP III stage itself.

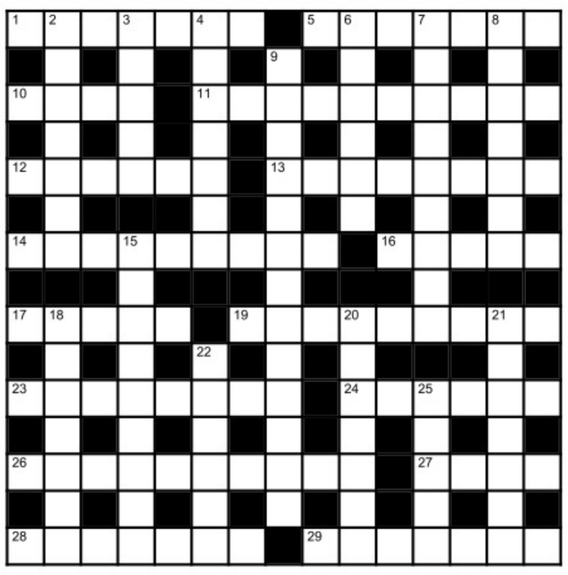
"Any proactive measure of CAQM to reduce air pollution is always welcome," the Supreme Court had observed in a November 19 order.

TH CROSSWORD + 14654

(set by Avtaar)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 On the ropes, struggling after losing set, possibly this one can't win (2-5)
5 A seafarer carrying case of pitch that is used for paving (7)
10 Is Diana about to withhold benefits? (4)
11 White House, say, backs probing enigmatic scholar over a missing pupil (10)
12 Foamy cosmetic obtained from sulphur filling source of meandering English river (6)
13 Problem with bank's agenda (2-2,4)
14 Estuary and desert having bounds separated (9)
16 Expel members of college staff (5)
17 Judge's work during break, essentially (5)
19 Sticker's put out "See Palo Alto on vacation" (9)
23 With it, cryptic setter gets attention (8)
24 Where you may find head of peacekeepers free from being barred (6)
26 Lady shouting head off making false pitch (10)
27 A cross-section outlining Avtaar's vertebra (4)
28 Court doing volte-face holding a set of hangings (7)
29 Cut chicken roast without stuffing brought back in serving table (7)

Down

2 Moon is oddly obscuring core of sun, portending bad luck (7)
3 Raised well outside a small island that provides relief when troubled (5)
4 One who enjoys eating a lot ignoring fellow nationalist from Japan, say (7)
6 Unusual to enter reserved second-class (6)
7 Call attention to Spooner's fiction "Crown" (9)
8 Primates look to climb, starting to swing (7)
9 Transforming theoretic construct on light particles, principally relating to an effect of Einstein (13)
15 Vicious turner spun, taking away focus of batters who end up losing (7-2)
18 Column featuring note on a new type of basket (7)
20 Gruel on plastic couch (7)
21 Word turning up in the SIM or phone (7)
22 Merchant's letter from Athens to avoid cheat (6)
25 Narrow places where people go to buy cycles (5)

SUDOKU

	4							5
	6				5	9		
	9		6		4			
	5			4		7		
		1		9		8		
		7		8			3	
			2		7		9	
		6	8				2	
5							1	

No.SS6718 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	E	H		M		M	E		N		R			
I	N	D	I	R	A		I	N	T	R	E	P	I	D
	O		N		N		N		C		W		D	
B	R	I	G	H	T	S	I	D	E		O	N	G	E
	M				R		O		T		R		E	
C	O	M	P	L	A	I	N		E	N	L	I	S	T
	U		R				S		R		E			
A	S	T	O	U	N	D		M	A	C	A	B	R	E
			P		A		S				N		A	
E	M	B	A	L	M			P	A	R	A	S	I	T	E
	U		G		A			E		E			S	
A	G	R	A			S	T	A	N	D	A	L	O	N	E
	H		N		K		K		I		O		A	
H	A	N	D	M	A	D	E		P	L	U	C	K	Y
	L		A		R		R		S		D		E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	9	5	7	8	3	1	4	2
1	3	8	4	5	2	6	9	7
2	4	7	9	1	6	5	8	3
8	6	3	1	7	4	2	5	9
9	5	1	6	2	8	7	3	4
4	7	2	3	9	5	8	6	1
5	8	9	2	4	1	3	7	6
3	2	4	8	6	7	9	1	5
7	1	6	5	3	9	4	2	8

FAITH

Boundless compassion

The divine grace and compassion of God are truly immeasurable. Sri Hariji described the Lord's various qualities in a discourse. Lord Nrusimha gently placed the child devotee Prahlada on his lap and, with boundless compassion, asked him lovingly about his well-being. In response, Prahlada humbly said his devotion could never equal the Lord's infinite mercy.

Although decisions are typically made by majority rule, Lord Rama displayed His unparalleled compassion towards Vibhishana. While everyone except Hanuman opposed Vibhishana's acceptance, Rama graciously welcomed him because of his absolute surrender, even though Vibhishana came from the enemy camp.

Rama blessed Ahalya and restored her to her original form, granting her liberation as a reward for her steadfast devotion.

Lord Krishna saved Draupathi when she cried out as "Govinda" in her moment of most profound distress and humiliation. The Lord declared that He remained ever indebted to Draupathi for her unwavering faith and wholehearted devotion.

The young devotee Dhruva, who performed intense penance, was granted an exalted and eternal place in 'Dhruva Mandala' – a special celestial realm created by God Himself. This divine honour was bestowed as a token of appreciation for the child's steadfast devotion and unwavering determination.

Another instance is Lord Vishnu rescuing the elephant Gajendra from the clutches of the crocodile when the helpless creature sincerely pleaded for divine help.

INBRIEF

LIC increases holding in drugmaker Cipla to 7.05%

State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) acquired over 1.64 crore shares in Cipla in a little over four months from July. LIC's holding in the firm consequently increased from 5.025% around mid-July to 7.055% by November-end, as per a filing by the drugmaker on the move by India's largest institutional investor. LIC bought the additional 2% stake via open market purchases. Cipla shares closed less than 1% lower on Monday at ₹1,523.80 apiece on the BSE.

Bombay HC dismisses pleas against WeWork India IPO

The Bombay High Court on Monday dismissed two writ petitions challenging the disclosures in WeWork India Management Pvt. Ltd.'s initial public offering (IPO), holding that the allegations of inadequate and misleading disclosures were "without merit" and that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had acted lawfully. The court also imposed a cost of ₹1 lakh on one petitioner for "deliberate suppression" of material facts.

Sai buys stake in Australian pharma firm for ₹125 crore

IPO-bound pharmaceutical formulations company Sai Parenteral's acquired 74.6% stake in Adelaide-based Noumed Pharmaceuticals for ₹125 crore. With AUD 60 million in revenue, Noumed is a supplier of private label over-the-counter products to pharmacy chains across Australia and New Zealand and is establishing an AUD 53 million manufacturing unit in Adelaide which is likely to begin commercial operations by fourth quarter 2026.

GST collections slip on rate reduction to ₹1.7 lakh crore in Nov.

The silver lining is the spurt in consumption across the economy as is evident from the increase in the turnover of most companies

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Cut in time: The government rationalised GST to just two rates of 5% and 18% from September 22. K.V.S. GIRI

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections slipped to a year-low of ₹1.70 lakh crore in November, growing at a meagre 0.7% year-on-year on a base lowered by the exclusion of proceeds from cess on sin and luxury goods, as per official data.

While tepid collections were attributed to a major reduction in tax rates on most goods and services, the silver lining was the spurt in consumption across the economy, as evident from the rise in turnover of most companies, giving hope of a multiplier effect of the rate cut in the medium term.

In a reform aimed at boosting local consumption and fireproofing the economy from global trade winds, the government rationalised GST to just two rates of 5% and 18% from September 22, from 5, 12, 18 and 28% earlier.

Icra chief economist Aditi Nayar said, "based on the CGA data, the asking rate for CGST collections during the rest of the year is quite high, and a miss on this account seems inevitable. While we believe taxes will fall short of FY26 BE, higher-than-budgeted non-tax revenue would absorb a part of this shortfall. Overall, we do not expect a material fiscal slippage at the current juncture."

Small is good: Representational image of Maruti Suzuki cars parked at a plant in Manesar, Haryana. REUTERS

'Small cars will be wiped out if emission norms unscientific'

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Automaker Maruti warned 'small cars will have to be discontinued' if the Centre's proposed norms for lowering fuel use and carbon emissions become unscientific and unjust.

Rahul Bharti, ED, corporate affairs, Maruti Suzuki rejected the criticism from Tata Motors and Mahindra, who called the proposed weight-based emission exemptions 'arbitrary.' He called the claims 'incorrect facts and narratives irresponsibly pushed by makers of gas guzzlers.'

"I wish they took a national view," he said. Protecting small, affordable cars is consistent with global best practices.

The remarks are over the draft Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE)-3 framework which has driven a rift in the auto industry. The proposed framework brought out by Bureau of Energy Efficiency in late September, seek tightening fleet-average CO_2 emissions from 113 gram/km to 91.7 gram/km. The draft also includes a relaxation for petrol cars weighing 909 kg or less, measuring under four metre and equipped with engines up to 1,200 cc, which will get a 3g/km relaxation in their CO2 numbers.

Alter level-playing

It is this weight based reduction introduced at the behest of Maruti that several automobile players have opposed claiming that it will "alter the level playing field".

But Mr. Bharti asserted protecting small, affordable cars is consistent with global best practices.

"The governments of 90% of the world automobile market, including China, U.S., Europe, Japan, Korea provide structured relaxations for small cars. Are we saying the governments of all these countries are arbitrary?" China offers benefits below 1,090 kg and the U.S. follows a footprint-based approach.

Centre seeks Parliamentary nod for additional ₹41,000-cr. spend

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has sought Parliamentary approval for extra expenditure of ₹41,455.39 crore as well as a re-prioritisation of ₹90,812.17 crore worth of budgetary resources for the current financial year 2025-26.

FM tables demand

Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday tabled the first Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2025-26 totalling ₹1.32 lakh crore of additional expenditure. This would involve ₹41,455.39 crore of additional spending, with ₹90,812.17 crore of spending coming from savings made in other areas.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,642	-0.07
US Dollar	89.53	-0.08
Gold	1,33,200	2.33
Brent oil	63.16	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2262.00	-18.20
Adani Ports	1530.50	13.60
Apollo Hosp	7287.50	-48.00
Asian Paints	2867.60	-6.80
Axis Bank	1275.70	-4.00
Bajaj Auto	9096.00	22.50
Bajaj Finserv	2081.80	-12.20
Bajaj Finance	1021.10	-16.40
Bharat Elec	417.25	5.50
Bharti Airtel	2089.70	-11.90
Cipla	1523.10	-8.20
Coal India	379.65	3.50
Dr Reddys Lab	1260.10	1.30
Eicher Motors	7125.50	72.00
Eternal Ltd.	301.50	1.40
Grasim Ind	2731.50	-7.90
HCL Tech	1642.90	18.70
HDFC Bank	1002.10	-5.50
HDFC Life	766.75	2.45
Hindalco	810.80	2.40
Hind Unilever	2464.50	-2.10
ICICI Bank	1390.10	1.30
IntGlobeAvi	5794.00	-107.50
Infosys	1564.00	3.90
ITC	404.25	0.00
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	304.75	-1.45
JSW Steel	1168.40	8.10
Kotak Bank	2147.60	23.20
L&T	4073.20	3.60
M&M	3741.60	-15.70
Maruti Suzuki	16097.00	197.00
Max Healthcare	1125.40	-37.40
NestleIndia	1260.60	-0.50
NTPC	327.10	0.65
ONGC	244.83	1.58
PowerGrid Corp	269.65	-0.30
Reliance Ind	1566.10	-1.40
SBI Life	1971.60	5.60
State Bank	973.10	-5.90
Shriram Finance Ltd.	851.55	-0.10
Sun Pharma	1807.40	-24.20
TataConsumerProduct	1163.80	-8.60
Tata Steel	168.63	0.67
TCS	3133.40	-4.10
Tech Mahindra	1529.50	12.20
Titan	3894.90	-12.80
Tata Motors PV	363.80	7.00
Trent Ltd.	4215.90	-34.50
UltraTech Cement	11662.00	62.00
Wipro	250.28	0.75

98.39% of ₹2000 notes returned: RBI

As much as 98.39% of the ₹2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Monday.

GST cut propels November automobile wholesales

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Hyundai Motor achieved a total monthly sales of 66,840 units, a YoY growth of 9.1%.

Benefits of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) cut in September helped maintain the momentum in automobile wholesales through November, with leading manufacturers reporting a more than 20% growth year on year (YoY), indicating robust performance.

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. said it sold a total of 2,29,021 units in November 2025, its highest-ever monthly sales volume, compared with 1,81,531 units in the year-ago period, up 26%. Domestic PV sales increased 21% YoY to 1,70,971 units. Total sales in the month included domestic sales of 1,74,593 units, sales of 8,371 units to other original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), and exports of 46,057 units. Notably, the exports reached an all-time monthly high.

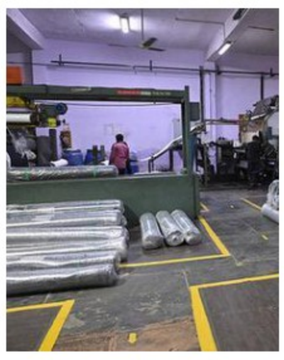
Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd.'s wholesales in the domestic and international markets for November stood at 59,199 units, compared with 47,117 units in November 2024, up 25.6%. In the domestic market, the company reported 22% growth in wholesales at 57,436 units compared with 47,063 units a year ago. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. announced that its overall auto sales for November stood at 92,670 vehicles, a YoY growth of 19%, including exports. In the Utility Vehicles segment, Mahindra sold 56,336 vehicles in the domestic market, a YoY growth of 22% and overall, 57,598 vehicles, including exports. The domestic sales for Commercial Vehicles stood at 24,843, a growth of 17%.

Hyundai Motor India Limited. (HMIL) achieved a total monthly sales of 66,840 units, registering a YoY growth of 9.1%. This includes monthly domestic sales of 50,340 units, up 4.3% YoY, and exports of 16,500 units.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) reported wholesales of 33,752 units, up 28% YoY. This includes 30,085 units sold in the domestic market while 3,667 units were exported.

Manufacturing slips to 9-month low in November, PMI shows

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI


The report showed mild loss of overall growth momentum.

India's manufacturing sector activity eased to a nine-month low in November, mainly owing to a softer rise in sales and production amid reports of challenging market conditions, a monthly report said.

The seasonally-adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) falling to 56.6 in November from 59.2 in October, highlighted slowest improvement in operating conditions since February.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India's final November PMI confirmed that U.S. tariffs caused manufacturing expansion to slow," said Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist, HSBC.

"Although firms suggested the trend for international sales remained favourable – reflecting greater sales to clients in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, there was a mild loss of overall growth momentum," HSBC India said.

NMDC iron ore output 11% higher in Nov., sales rise 4%

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

State-owned NMDC reported iron ore production rose 11% to 5.01 million tonnes in November from 4.51 MT a year earlier. Sales for the month rose 4% to 4.17 MT (4 MT).

This was the best-ever performance for November since inception. Production also exceeded the monthly target by 1%, reflecting efficient utilisation of mining capacity and improved operational rhythm across the company's assets, the country's largest iron ore producer said on Monday.

"NMDC's performance for November and year-to-date reflects steady operational discipline and strong execution," CMD Amitava Mukherjee said.

CAD moderates to $12.3 billion in Q2

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's current account deficit (CAD) moderated to $12.3 billion (1.3% of GDP) in Q2 FY26 from $20.8 billion (2.2% of GDP) in Q2 FY25. Merchandise trade deficit at $87.4 billion in Q2 FY26 was lower than $88.5 billion in the same period last year, as per preliminary data on India's balance of payments (BoP) for the second quarter, [July-September 2025-26], released by the RBI on Monday.

Net services receipts increased to $50.9 billion in Q2 FY26 from $44.5 billion a year ago. Services exports have risen on a year-on-year basis in major categories such as computer services and other business services.

Net outgo on the primary income account, mainly reflecting payments of investment income, increased to $12.2 billion in Q2 FY26 from $9.2 billion in the year-ago period.

Personal transfer receipts under secondary income account, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, rose to $38.2 billion from $34.4 billion a year ago. In financial account, FDI recorded a net inflow of $2.9 billion as against a net outflow of $2.8 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

FPI outflow

Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) recorded a net outflow of $5.7 billion as against a net inflow of $19.9 billion a year ago. Net inflows under external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to India amounted to $1.6 billion compared with net inflows of $5 billion in the year ago period.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION UDAIPUR
Tel. No. 0294-2481538, e-mail: ace.uda.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No/ACE/UDR/NIT_18(Udaipur Amrut)/2025-26/11773-11782 Dated: 24.11.2025
Corrigendum - 03
Following Corrigendum-03 is hereby issued to this office NIT No. 18/2025-26 (Work of Udaipur AMRUT 2.0) Old DIPR No. C/14454/2025 in in regarding change in PQ criteria, and Date. Corrigendum can be seen in NIT exhibited on web site www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
UBN No. PHE2526WLOB06998
(Shaitan Singh)
Addl. Chief Engineer,
PHED, Region Udaipur
DIPR/C/17536/2025

NASHIK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, NASHIK
E-Tender Cell Department
Notice No. 39 (Year 2025-26)
Nashik Municipal Corporation, Nashik E-Tender Cell (Public Works Department) vide E-Tender Notice No.39 (Year 2025-26) invites bids for 1 works which will be displayed on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in. from dt. 01/12/2025 to 09/12/2025 up to 3.00 pm Last date for acceptance of tender will be dt.09/12/2025.
Note - All further necessary notices / clarifications will be published on the online website.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
E-Tender Cell
Nashik Municipal Corporation.
जनसंपर्क/जा.क्र/३७२/२०२५ दि.३०/११/२०२५ गोदा प्रदुषण टाळा, भविष्य संभाळा.

EXPORT INSPECTION AGENCY - CHENNAI
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
6th Floor C.M.D.A. Tower II, No.1 Gandhi Irwin Road,
Egmore, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600008
Phones: +91-44-28552841/42/43, Fax: +91-44-28552840
E-mail: jd-chennai@eicindia.gov.in Website: www.eicindia.gov.in
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas Shri Kannan Kasturi NS, who was worked as Deputy Director (NT), Export Inspection Agency - Chennai (HO), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, was relieved from his duties from Export Inspection Agency Chennai on 01.08.2023 onwards.
Whereas, the Export Inspection Council Order under File No. EIC/ADMN/VIG/77138/2022/8 dated 15.04.2025 for imposing of penalty had been earlier communicated to his residential address as per service records, which were not delivered and received back by Export Inspection Agency - Chennai (HO) on different occasions.
As the above officer had not responded to the communications sent him earlier by email and post by this office, a Public Notice is issued that Shri Kannan Kasturi N S, Deputy Director (NT) may receive the Order from Export Inspection Agency - Chennai within seven days from the date of publication of the Notice, failing which action will be taken as per extant rules. It is also intimated to the Public that who may know the above officer by virtue of relation, profession or by any means may contribute in intimating the above notice to him.
S/d-
Deputy Director (I/c)

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
CORPORATE OFFICE,
254-260, AVVAI SHANMUGAM SALAI,
ROYAPETTAH, CHENNAI - 600014
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ACTIVATION OF INOPERATIVE ACCOUNTS
Our Bank has observed that in some accounts there is no customer-induced transactions for over two years.
Account holders of such Inoperative accounts are hereby requested to reactivate their accounts by visiting their home branch or any Indian Bank branch by submitting fresh KYC documents like Aadhar / Driving License/Voter ID /etc
For any queries or assistance, please contact your nearest Indian Bank branch.
Follow us on :

ANNAYA

Pope Leo brings message of peace and harmony to crisis-hit Lebanon

REUTERS

Pope Leo XIV prayed on Monday at the tomb of St. Charbel Makhlouf, a Lebanese saint revered among Christians and Muslims as he brought a message of peace, hope and religious coexistence to a region torn by conflict. His visit comes at a tenuous time for the country after years of economic crises and political deadlock. AP

TEGUCIGALPA

Trump-backed candidate holds narrow lead in Honduras election

AFP

Nasry Asfura, a conservative candidate backed by U.S. President Donald Trump narrowly leads a right-wing rival in Honduras's Presidential election, according to partial results released on Monday. Mr. Asfura had 40% of the votes and led Salvador Nasralla by just 0.2 percentage points, with 56% of votes counted. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Policeman killed, several injured in suicide bombing in northwest Pak.

AFP

A suicide bomb attack near a police vehicle in restive northwest Pakistan bordering Afghanistan killed at least one officer on Monday and wounded several others, officials said. The attack happened in Lakki Marwat, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a statement condemned the attack. AP

JERUSALEM

Herzog to consider Israel's 'best interests' on Netanyahu pardon

AP

Israeli President Isaac Herzog said on Monday he would focus only on Israel's "best interests" when he weighs Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's request for a pardon on corruption charges. Mr. Netanyahu announced on Sunday he had submitted a pardon request, saying the long-running cases were tearing Israel apart. AFP

Hasina, her British lawmaker niece found guilty in Bangladesh graft case

Dhaka court hands five years in jail for the former PM and two years for her niece for alleged corruption, involving a govt. land project; Awami League party calls the ruling 'predictable', terms the anti-corruption watchdog a 'political mechanism'

Associated Press
DHAKA

A court in Bangladesh's capital sentenced ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to five years in prison and her niece, British Labour Party lawmaker Tulip Siddiq, to two years in prison on Monday for corruption involving a government land project.

Rabiul Alam, the judge of Dhaka's Special Judge's Court, said Ms. Hasina misused her power as Prime Minister while Ms. Siddiq was guilty of corruptly influencing her aunt in helping her mother and two siblings get a land plot in a government project. Ms. Siddiq's mother, Sheikh Rehana, was given seven years in prison and was considered the prime participant in the case.

In the net: Tulip Siddiq (L) alongside Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Kremlin in Moscow in this 2013 photo. AP

Ms. Hasina's Awami League party said the verdict was "entirely predictable," and that the anti-corruption watchdog body "itself is a political mechanism used for political ends."

"The allegations against Sheikh Hasina, her sister, and many others including members of her immediate and wider family are firmly denied," a party statement sent to *The Associated Press* said. "The process fails to pass any reasonable test of judicial fairness."

The prosecution said Ms. Siddiq was tried as a Bangladeshi citizen. But Ms. Siddiq disputed the claim and said she is a British citizen, not a Bangladeshi citizen.

'Complete farce'

Ms. Siddiq, who represents London's Hampstead and Highgate areas in Britain's Parliament, described the verdict as "a complete farce."

"The outcome of this kangaroo court is as predictable as it is unjustified," she said in a statement. "My focus has always been my constituents in Hampstead and Highgate and I refuse to be distracted by the dirty politics of Bangladesh."

Britain's ruling Labour Party said it could not recognise the judgement because Ms. Siddiq did not have access to a fair legal process.

Ms. Hasina was sentenced to death in November for crimes against humanity involving the crackdown on the mass uprising that ended her 15-year rule last year. She lives in exile in India, and all of her trials have been conducted in absentia.

Trump confirms call with Maduro; Venezuela slams U.S. preparations for 'attack'

Agence France-Presse
CARACAS

U.S. President Donald Trump confirmed on Sunday he had recently spoken with Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro amid soaring tensions between the two countries, while Caracas slammed what it called U.S. preparations for an attack.

The United States is piling the pressure on Venezuela, with a major military buildup in the Caribbean, the designation of an alleged drug cartel run by Mr. Maduro as a terrorist group, and a warning from Mr. Trump that Venezuelan airspace is "closed."

Washington says the aim of the military deployment launched in September is to curb drug trafficking in the region, but Caracas insists regime change is the ultimate goal.

Donald Trump

"I wouldn't say it went well or badly. It was a phone call," Mr. Trump told reporters on Sunday aboard Air Force One.

The New York Times reported that Mr. Trump and Mr. Maduro had discussed a possible meeting, while *The Wall Street Journal* said that the conversation also included conditions of amnesty if Mr. Maduro were to step down.

Since September, U.S. air strikes have targeted alleged drug-trafficking boats in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing at least 83 people. Trump's administration has offered no concrete evidence to back up the allegations behind its campaign, and numerous experts have questioned the legality of the operations.

The head of Venezuela's legislature, Jorge Rodriguez, said he met on Sunday with relatives of Venezuelans killed in the strikes.

International community pledges support as Sri Lanka toll climbs to 390

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Many countries have pledged support to Sri Lanka as it braces for a long recovery from the widespread devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah over the last few days, claiming at least 390 lives.

As the island faces the aftermath of one of its worst instances of flooding and landslides in years, India stepped in immediately, summoning its National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to support the Sri Lankan military's rescue efforts, apart from dispatching emergency relief material. Although heavy rains have let up in many parts of the island, reports of severe waterlogging and inundation, and landslides in the badly-affected hill country persist.

Dire straits: Residents carrying belongings wade through a flooded area in Wellampitiya near Colombo, Sri Lanka on Monday. AFP

Pakistan, too, brought in its military personnel and aid, even as many countries, including China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and the U.S., pledged financial support. In his televised address to the nation on Sunday evening, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake expressed confidence about mobilising "a substantial amount of funds" required to rebuild the country. "We are working very closely with friendly nations to secure their assistance," he said.

Addressing private sector representatives on Sunday, Mr. Dissanayake pointed to the extensive damage to road networks, houses, farmlands, plantations, highways, bridges, government buildings and schools in the disaster, his office said in a statement.

According to an initial assessment of the UN's relief coordination office, over 15,000 homes have been destroyed, more than 200 roads remain inaccessible, several bridges damaged, and sections of the rail network and national power grid have been affected.

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR

No. : NIT/2025-26/28018-31 — Date : 01/12/2025

निविदा सूचना/2025-26

निम्नलिखित परियोजना पर पथकर वसूली हेतु ई-टेन्डरिंग प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की अनु. लागत (रु.)	निविदा सूचना संख्या
Selection of Bidder for-Collection of User Fee on the basis of competitive bidding through e-procurement basis on Following BOT Roads urgent temporary basis for a maximum period of 90 days or till start of Toll Collection by new regular contractor, whichever is earlier.		
Jahajpur-Mandalgarh BOT Road. UBN: RRC2526SLOB00961	630.00 Lakh	अल्पकालीन ई-531/25-26
Mangalwar-Nimbahera & Fatehnagar-Dariba BOT Road. UBN: RRC2526SLOB00967.	472.50 Lakh	
Bari-Baseri-Bayana-Weir-Bhusawar-Chhonkarwara-Kherli Road UBN: RRC2526SLOB00970	369.91 Lakh	अल्पकालीन ई-536/25-26
Pratapgarh-Mandsaur BOT Road. UBN: RRC2526SLOB00971	81.00 Lakh	अल्पकालीन ई-537/25-26

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट: http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in तथा http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। **महाप्रबंधक**

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri
(Government of Karnataka - Autonomous Institution)
Phone : 08272-298220 Website : www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in

No. DME/2025-26/IND1871 Date: 28-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Under signed invites e-tender notification in two Bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** GOK, for the SUPPLY OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS TO, DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIA KOIMS, teaching Hospital Madikeri. Last date for upload is 30-12-2025 for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Director & Dean, KoIMS, Madikeri

PM Modi calls Sri Lankan President to offer continued support with cyclone relief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Under Operation Sagar Bandhu, India has provided relief items and launched rescue operations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Monday, and assured India's continued support under Operation Sagar Bandhu that was launched to help the island nation as it deals with the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah.

"Spoke with President Dissanayake and conveyed heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of lives and the widespread devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah. As a close and trusted friend, India stands firmly beside Sri Lanka and its people in this difficult hour. India will continue to extend all necessary support under the ongoing Operation Sagar Bandhu for relief and rescue efforts and will stand with Sri Lanka in the days ahead as it undertakes rehabilitation and recovery," Mr. Modi said in a message on X.

President Dissanayake conveyed the appreciation of the people of Sri Lanka for the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

After Sri Lanka sought international help, India sent immediate assistance from INS Vikrant and INS Udaygiri and MI-17 helicopters to assist people with relief items and rescue operations. So far under Operation Sagar Bandhu, nationals of Sri Lanka, India, Germany, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Poland, Belarus, Iran, Australia, Pakistan and Bangladesh have been rescued, said a government statement.

India has so far handed over 53 tonnes of relief material, an official press release said.

'U.K. military committed war crimes in Afghanistan'

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Senior U.K. special forces leaders covered up potential war crimes in Afghanistan, a former high-ranking officer has told a public inquiry probing the claims, according to evidence released on Monday.

The officer alleged two former directors of the special forces and others failed to act on concerns that units carried out unlawful killings while operating in the country. The inquiry is probing the accusations about the special forces' conduct in Afghanistan between 2010 and 2013, including the killing of women and children.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our clients are intending to purchase below mentioned development Right Certificates (collectively referred to as the "DRC") morefully described in the Schedule hereunder from Embassy Classic Private Limited, having its office at No.101/102, Embassy Chambers, No.5, Vittal Mallya Road, Bengaluru-560 001, referred to as ("Owner").The Owner has represented that it is the owner of DRC arising out of the land parcels (collectively the "Property") relinquished by the Owner to the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike under registered relinquishment deeds, which are detailed in the table below.-

Any person or entities having any right, title, claim or interest of any kind whatsoever including mortgage/ charge/ claim/ encumbrance/ demand over the Property and/or the DRC whether by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, charge, encumbrance, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, bequest, easement, trust, covenant, possession, maintenance, development rights, or otherwise of any nature whatsoever must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof within Ten (10) days of this publication. In case no such notice is received by us within Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that the title of the Owner with respect to the DRC is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Property and/or the DRC or any part thereof. Claims or alleged interest, if any, which are not received within Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be deemed to have been waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

Item No.	Details of total land	Relinquished extents in Square meters	DRC issued by the BBMP	Relinquishment deeds executed in favour of the BBMP	Boundaries to the relinquished area as per the relinquishment deeds
1	Survey No.11/2, measurin 2 acres Municipal Khata No.05/11/2 situated at Koudenahalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District	926.50	DRC bearing No.002981, dated 09.07.2014 in Ledger/Folio No. 100 to an extent of floor area ratio credit of built-up area measuring 1389.75 square meters.	Relinquishment deed dated 28.12.2013 registered as document No. BNS-1-13175/2013-14, Book-I, in the office of the Sub-registrar, Banaswadi	East by: T.C. Palya Gadi; West by: Remaining land of Survey No.11; North by: Remaining land and Road; South by: Remaining land and Road.
2	Survey No.27/1,and Khata No.1635/1322/27/1, measuring 32 ½ guntas, situated at Sathanur Village, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District	303.44	DRC bearing No. 003590, dated 27.08.2014 in Ledger/Folio No. 124 to an extent of floor area ratio credit of built-up area measuring 455.16 square meters.	Relinquishment deed dated 01.08.2014 registered as document No.YAN-1-03840/2014-15, Book-I, in the office of the Sub-registrar, Yelahanka	East by: Remaining portion of the land in Survey No.27/1 and Private Property; West by: Survey Nos.28, 27/3 and 27/4 and Private Property; North by: Remaining Property; South by: Road.
3	Survey No.37/1, measuring 1 acre 31 guntas, situated at Gunjur Village, VarthurHobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District	304	DRC bearing No.003486, dated 08.09.2014 in Ledger/Folio No. 120 to an extent of floor area ratio credit of built-up area measuring 456square meters.	Relinquishment deed dated 21.07.2014 registered as document No.VRT-1-01751/2014-15, Book-I, in the office of the Sub-registrar, Varthur	East by: Remaining land of Survey No.37; West by: Survey No.36; North by: Remaining land of Survey No.36; South by: Road.
4	Survey No. 114, measuring 8 ¾ guntas, situated at Rampura Village, BidarahalliHobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District	297.50	DRC bearing No. 003193, dated 24.01.2015 in Ledger/Folio No. 108 to an extent of floor area ratio credit of built-up area measuring 446.25square meters.	Relinquishment deed dated 12.01.2015 registered as document No.BNS-1-17062/2014-15, Book-I, in the office of the Sub-registrar, Banaswadi	East by:Survey No.113; West by:Gramatana; North by:Remaining land; South by:Rampura Road.

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 02-12-2025

Malini Raju
Vidhyadhare.S
AZB & Partners, Advocates & Solicitors
Level 5, 37 Cunningham, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru -560 052.
Email:malini.raju@azbpartners.com Tel: + 91 80 4240 0500

AS PASSIONATE AS EVER

Steyn waxes eloquent on Kohli retaining hunger despite age

R.V. MOORTHY

When you speak to most 37 or 38-year-olds, they say they hate leaving home, their dog, their kids. But he (Virat Kohli) is eager to play for India. You can see it when he's running between the wickets, fielding and diving. He's mentally young, fresh, and wants to be here — Former South Africa pacer Dale Steyn.

UPHILL TASK

Once world-class players get going, very difficult to stop them: Jansen

R.V. MOORTHY

South Africa all-rounder Marco Jansen says stopping world-class batters like Virat Kohli becomes almost impossible once they settle in. "When you bowl to world-class players, it's quite difficult to get them out. I always try to get a batter in his first 10 or 15 balls. But once they're in, it's very difficult to stop them".

BACK IN IT

Hardik Pandya set to return to competitive cricket today

FILE PHOTO

Hardik Pandya will return to action against Punjab in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in Hyderabad on Tuesday and also feature in Thursday's clash against Gujarat. National selector Pragyan Ojha will be in attendance to check the Baroda player's fitness before the squad for the T20I series against South Africa is announced.

RUNNING RIOT

India steamrollers Namibia in women's Junior WC hockey

X@FIH_HOCKEY

India got its campaign off to a blazing start at the FIH hockey women's junior World Cup with a 13-0 mauling of Namibia in Santiago on Monday. **The result:** India 13 (Sakshi Rana 10, 23; Kanika Siwach 12, 30, 45; Binima Dhan 14, Sonam 14, Sakshi Shukla 27, Hina Bano 35, 35, 45; Ishika 36, Manisha 60) bt Namibia 0.

Kohli puts an end to debate over place in the ODI set-up

The Indian batting mainstay reckons his vast experience, fitness and 'feel-good' factor are enough to keep him going; Kotak believes the 37-year-old is in good physical shape; the batting coach adds that the 2027 World Cup is far away

SA IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
RANCHI

On a high: Kohli silenced his detractors with a majestic hundred in the series opener. R.V. MOORTHY

What constitutes the ideal preparation for India duty? Is it putting in the hard yards in the domestic circuit, or perhaps rigorous nets sessions?

In the opinion of Virat Kohli, his vast experience, fitness and 'feel-good' factor should suffice. It would take a brave person to argue against this case, given that Kohli looked majestic in his 120-ball 135 in the first ODI against South Africa here on Sunday.

Seasoned campaigner

"I've played 300-odd ODI games and so much cricket over the last 15, 16 years. If you're in touch with the game, you're hitting balls at practice, your reflexes are there, your physical ability is there to bat long... If you can bat an hour and a half, two hours in the nets without taking a break, you're meeting all those markers," Kohli said in the post-match presentation ceremony.

"I understand if there's a dip in form, you look for games and try to get that form back. But as long as you're hitting the ball well and you're playing good cricket, I think at this stage, with the experience that I have, it's about being physically fit, mentally ready and excited to play the games. More or less everything else should take care of itself," Kohli added.

India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak stated that there is no reason to even discuss Kohli's position in the ODI set-up.

"I don't know why we need to look at all this. He is really batting well. I don't see any reason to talk about his future. The way he is batting – it's just brilliant. The way he is performing, his fitness – there are no questions about anything," Kotak said in the post-match press conference here.

'Outstanding player'

"Kohli is a thoroughly outstanding player. He took responsibility, and the way he batted was very good," Kotak said.

No thought has been given to whether Kohli or fellow senior pro Rohit Sharma are in the scheme of things for the 2027 ICC World Cup, Kotak explained.

Too early

"It's a matter of two years. I really don't feel there is a point in talking about it. For us, once the team comes and we start practice, we just enjoy. Obviously, they (Kohli and Rohit) do share their experience with others. I don't even think we are talking anything about the 2027 World Cup," Kotak said.

Batting order shuffle symbolic of a growing structural disconnect

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Ruturaj batted at the No. 4 spot for the first time. R.V. MOORTHY

Ruturaj Gaikwad's return to the team for the first ODI against South Africa in Ranchi after 16 months on Sunday should have been routine for one of the country's most consistent List-A batters. Instead, it became symbolic of a growing structural disconnect in Indian cricket.

Ruturaj, who consistently averages above 55 in List-A cricket and has built his career almost exclusively as an opener, walked in at No. 4 – the first time he has batted below the top-three in 87 innings.

Raising eyebrows

The decision raised eyebrows because the selection committee had earmarked Tilak Varma, Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel as contenders for the No.4 slot, with Ruturaj picked as a reserve opener.

In fact, had Shubman Gill recovered from a neck spasm, Ruturaj would have continued captaining Maharashtra in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy instead of joining the national squad. One can only hope that he gets to bat at the same position in the rest of the series to prove his mettle.

This episode is only the latest indication of inconsistency of the selection panel led by Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir's team management.

Recent matches have revealed a trend of constant reshuffling. During India's Test series loss to South Africa – a second whitewash at home in 12 months – two different batters were tried at No. 3 across two Tests, with Washington Sundar being promoted ahead of others before being pushed back down the order.

Such role changes have created insecurity within the squad, with players unsure of their position, responsibility or continuity.

As a result, criticism in public spaces – from social media forums to commentary panels – has increasingly shifted away from the players and toward the decision-makers.

Traditionally, the selection committee finalises squads after consulting the captain and coach, while the team management decides the playing XI. However, the lines now appear blurred. Those familiar with recent internal discussions say extended meetings – including one ahead of the Champions Trophy squad selection – reflected disagreement rather than alignment.

Routinely bypassed

Officially, head coaches are not permitted to attend selection meetings under the Supreme Court-directed reforms, but that guideline appears to be routinely bypassed.

With major tournaments approaching – including the T20 World Cup, in which India is the defending champion next year, and an ODI World Cup in 2027 – clarity and stability have become urgent priorities.

For now, Ruturaj's batting position represents more than a tactical experiment – it reflects a system still searching for alignment, identity and clarity. And until that emerges, the players and Indian cricket remain in a holding pattern.

Argentina in knockouts; Kiwis pip Japan

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Flying start: New Zealand's Illerbrun struck in the first minute. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Heavy showers halted the FIH Junior Men's World Cup clash between New Zealand and Japan twice for more than an hour in the third quarter at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Monday. Despite the long interruptions and a 1-2 deficit at half-time, the Kiwis staged a strong comeback to prevail 3-2.

Later, Argentina confirmed its place in the knockout phase with a 3-1 victory over China, thanks to Bruno Correa's hat-trick.

Argentina (seven points from three matches) pushed New Zealand to the second place by virtue of better goal difference (+5 to the Kiwis' +3).

New Zealand struck in the first minute when Scott Illerbrun slid in to push the ball home.

Japan hit back quickly, Kyoya Toya unleashing a fierce forehand to draw level. Late in the opening quarter, Japan went ahead as Matsuki Mori pounced on a rebound off the goalkeeper's pads and guided it home. Holding a 2-1 lead at the break, Japan returned for the third quarter looking assured.

But the Future Black Sticks had other plans. With rain pouring down, it struck twice in the space of three minutes through Owen Brown and Jonty Elmes to turn the match on its head.

Brown's blistering backhand from close range left no chance for the goalkeeper.

Moments later, Elmes collected a long pass from near the halfway line; his first backhand attempt was blocked, but he latched onto the rebound and lifted the ball into the roof of the net.

For a while in the fourth quarter, New Zealand was reduced to nine players after Finlay Nealae (yellow card, 10-minute suspension) and captain Gus Nelson (green card, two-minute suspension) were sent off. Yet the side defended resolutely to preserve its slender lead.

With its second win (seven points in total) from three matches, the Kiwis remain in contention for a place in the knockouts.

The results: In Chennai: Pool C: New Zealand 3 (Scott Illerbrun 1, Owen Brown 37, Jonty Elmes 40) bt Japan 2 (Kyoya Toya 5, Matsuki Mori 14); Argentina 3 (Bruno Correa 15, 16 & 51) bt China 1 (Yanwei Di 37).

In Madurai: Pool A: Germany 5 (Jonas von Gersum 4 & 50, Paul Glander 34, Lukas Kossel 52, Christian Franz 53) bt Ireland 1 (Samuel Dale 51); South Africa 9 (Jaydon Brooker 8, 13, 36 & 50, Brett Horn 22, Sian Maart 25, Daniel Neuhoff 38, Carlos Mentoor 48, Ross Montgomery 60) bt Canada 1 (Robin Thind 14).

Sreejesh wants players to be ruthless in front of goal

Anish Pathiyil
MADURAI

Taskmaster: Sreejesh has demanded more from the attackers despite them pumping in 24 goals in the two games. G. MOORTHY

Indian junior men's team head coach P.R. Sreejesh said he expected more from the side's attackers despite the glut of goals, ahead of the final FIH Junior Men's World Cup Pool-B game against Switzerland here on Tuesday.

Sreejesh had said he wanted his players to show a 'killer attitude' in front of goal after the 7-0 win against Chile in the opener. They scored 17 goals without reply against Oman. But the coach says there is more work to be done.

"In this format, we need to have that kind of mentality [to score more goals]. League matches are open, and quarterfinal slots are allotted based on your goal average," he said in a media interaction.

Sreejesh was a mentor for the junior team during its title-winning run in Lucknow in 2016. From his experience, he says playing in front of a home crowd could be a double-edged sword. "When you are playing well, everything is great. The audience acts as your 12th man. But when you have an off-day, then you feel, 'I don't want to put myself in this situation in front of my own people'.

"But it's always a matter of pride to play for your country in front of your people. You are the ambassadors for your nation, and you are representing them on a world platform," the coach said.

Despite Tamil Nadu hosting the prestigious event, there are no representatives from the State team in the India squad. Sreejesh believes the right steps are being taken to ensure future participation.

"Tamil Nadu has started a league for schools. Many astroturfs are also coming up.

"They are building up from the grassroots level, and we will see the benefits in a few years. There is a lot of talent in Tamil Nadu and they will come forward".

Tuesday's matches:
In Madurai: Spain vs Namibia (11 a.m.); Egypt vs Belgium (1.15 p.m.); Netherlands vs Austria (3.30 p.m.); England vs Malaysia (5.45 p.m.); India vs Switzerland (8 p.m.).

Girona stops Real from going top

Associated Press
MADRID

Real Madrid failed to return to the top of the Spanish league on Sunday after being held 1-1 at relegation-threatened Girona.

Kylian Mbappe converted a 67th-minute penalty after Azzedine Ounahi had put the hosts ahead in the 45th at the Montilivi Stadium. "I liked how the team reacted, even though it wasn't enough to win," Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso said. Barcelona is one point ahead of Madrid after 14 matches.

In the Serie A, defending champion Napoli won 1-0 at rival Roma to move level with AC Milan atop the standings. David Neres scored in the first half after finishing off an exchange with Rasmus Hojlund on a counterattack. Milan and Napoli have 28 points. Inter Milan and Roma have 27 each.

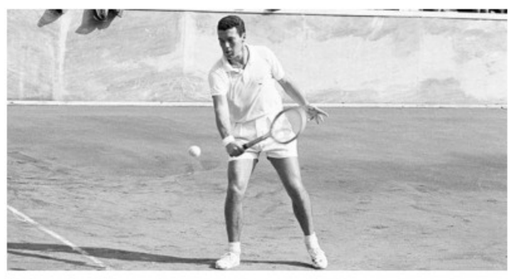
Top results: LaLiga: Girona 1 (Ounahi 45) drew with Real Madrid 1 (Mbappe 67-pen).
Serie A: Atalanta 2 (Kossounou 41, Lookman 52) bt Fiorentina 0; Roma 0 lost to Napoli 1 (Neres 36).

INBRIEF

Duplantis, McLaughlin-Levrone named 'Athletes of the Year'

Sweden's pole vault sensation Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis and American 400m World champion Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone were named World Athletes of the Year on Sunday. Duplantis, along with retaining his gold medal at the Worlds, broke his own world record four times and was undefeated in 16 meets. The 26-year-old also won a fifth consecutive Diamond League title. It is the third time that Duplantis has scooped the overall prize after winning it in 2020 and 2022. McLaughlin-Levrone, undefeated for two years in both the 400m and the 400m hurdles, formed part of the U.S. 4x400m gold medal winning relay team at the Worlds.

Other awardees: Track: Men: Emmanuel Wanyonyi (Ken); **women:** McLaughlin-Levrone. **Field:** Duplantis; **women:** Nicola Olyslagers (Aus). **Out of stadium: Men:** Sabastian Sawe (Ken); **women:** Maria Perez (Esp).



Italian tennis icon Pietrangeli passes away at the age of 92

Nicola Pietrangeli, a two-time winner of the French Open, died aged 92, Italy's tennis federation announced on Monday. Pietrangeli won 44 singles titles over his career, including the triumphs at Roland Garros in 1959 and 1960, and reached the Wimbledon semifinals the same year as his second French Open title. Pietrangeli was also a Davis Cup stalwart, playing a record 164 matches for Italy and as captain leading his country to its first title in 1976.

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY — TUESDAY'S FIXTURES

Elite: Group A (Lucknow): Chhattisgarh vs. Odisha, Andhra vs. Railways, Assam vs. Mumbai, Kerala vs. Vidarbha.
Group B (Kolkata): Goa vs. Madhya Pradesh, Bihar vs. Maharashtra, Chandigarh vs. Jammu & Kashmir, Hyderabad vs. Uttar Pradesh.
Group C (Hyderabad): Gujarat vs. Pondicherry, Baroda vs. Punjab, Bengal vs. Himachal Pradesh, Haryana vs. Services.
Group D (Ahmedabad): Karnataka vs. Tamil Nadu, Delhi vs. Tripura, Jharkhand vs. Saurashtra, Rajasthan vs. Uttarakhand.
Plate (Pune): Meghalaya vs. Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh vs. Mizoram, Manipur vs. Sikkim.

SNAPSHOTS

Tamil Nadu beats Karnataka

Davis.

SULTANPUR: Tamil Nadu beat Karnataka by five wickets in the BCCI under-23 Women's T20 Trophy match here on Monday. Karnataka will next Punjab in the pre-quarterfinals in Ahmedabad on Friday.

The scores: Karnataka 110/6 in 20 overs lost to Tamil Nadu 113/5 in 19.1 overs.

Gute 27, A.M. Muhammed Dilshad 37, Sansam Lenin Meitei 57, Aaron Rodriguez 90+3) bt Jawahar Union FC 0.

FC Deccan routs DYES FC

BENGALURU: FC Deccan thrashed DYES FC 6-1 in the BDFA A-division league championship here on Monday.

The results: Bangalore Eagles FC 3 (R. Shivakumar 21, Scigoulen Kipgen 65, Sidharadh V. Suresh 72) bt Real Chikmagalur 1 (N. Shivakumar 85); FC Deccan 6 (Aimso Chithung 5, 45+1, Lowly 22, 24, 42, 88) bt DYES FC 1 (Santhosh Tamata 28); Technico FF 4 (Thangjalen

Davis triumphs

Sean Davis defeated Sheikh Najeeb in the final to win the State-ranking senior men's snooker tournament.

The results: Final: Sean Davis bt Sheikh Najeeb 5–3 (61-42, 62-11, 34-68, 31-71, 76-28, 09-80, 66-39, 61-30); **third-place match:** S. Parthiban bt M.S. Arun 3–1 (10-86, 88-52, 74-64, 49-25).

LIVE TELECAST

SMAT: JioHotstar, 9, 11 a.m. 1.30 & 4.30 p.m.
Bangladesh vs Ireland: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 5.30 p.m.
Hockey: Junior World Cup. India vs Switzerland, SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 11.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)
New Zealand vs West Indies: 1st Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Going down to the wire: Piquet, Prost and Mansell were involved in a close race in 1986 while 2007 witnessed Raikkonen, Hamilton and Alonso battling for glory. Red Bull's Vettel, centre, edged his teammate Webber and Ferrari's Alonso to claim his maiden World title in 2010. FILE PHOTOS

Race to the finish line evokes memories of the 1986, 2007 and 2010 skirmishes

The showdown in Abu Dhabi will witness a no-holds barred battle among Norris, Verstappen and Piastri; the Brit leads the Dutchman by 12 points

FORMULA ONE

S. Dipak Ragav

Formula One, for the first time since 2010, will have a three-way battle for the drivers' title going into the final race of the season at Abu Dhabi this weekend.

Heading into the season finale, McLaren's Lando Norris leads Max Verstappen by 12 points and is 16 points ahead of teammate Oscar Piastri. McLaren has been the standout team, having sealed the constructors' crown five races ago in Singapore. But the British squad has been caught in a Hobson's choice, trying to be fair to both drivers, and, in doing so, has left the door open for Verstappen to nick it right under their noses.

And if it happens, it won't be the first time in the sport or even for McLaren.

The most famous instance of two teammates fighting amongst themselves and allowing a third driver to take away the title was back in 2007.

That year, McLaren drivers Fernando Alonso and Lewis Hamilton were seven and three points ahead of Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen going into the final round in Brazil.

Raikkonen won the last race with Alonso finishing third and Hamilton seventh, and edged them out by one point.

Similarly, in 1986, Nigel Mansell was six points ahead of McLaren's Alain Prost and seven ahead of his Williams teammate Nelson Piquet.

In the final race in Adelaide, Mansell suffered a tyre failure while running third. Piquet then relinquished the lead to change tyres to avoid a similar problem and had to settle for second. This allowed Prost to win the race and the title by two points.

In 2010, Alonso, in a Ferrari, led Red Bull's Mark Webber and Sebastian Vettel by eight and 15 points, respectively, going into the season-ending Abu Dhabi GP.

In that race, Vettel won from pole, while a strategic blunder in pitting early saw Alonso and Webber finish seventh and eighth. Thus, Vettel won his maiden title, beating Alonso by four points.

Coming back to 2025, Verstappen has fought his way back from being 104 points behind eight races ago. He has won five out of the last eight events, including the last two, to set up a thrilling finale.

Can the Dutchman pull off a heist to clinch his fifth title, or will one of the McLaren drivers huff and puff to the crown? All eyes are now on the Yas Marina Circuit on Sunday.

Drivers' standings (top-5):

1. Norris 408; 2. Verstappen 396; 3. Piastri 392; 4. Russell 309; 5. Leclerc 230.

Women's chief coach Harendra calls it quits

HOCKEY

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Harendra.

In a surprise development, Indian women's hockey team coach Harendra Singh stepped down on Monday with immediate effect. The team is currently training in Bengaluru ahead of the Hockey India League and the FIH Pro League starting in February. More importantly, the qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup are also scheduled in February-March.

"We thank Harendra Singh for his services. His commitment towards the development of Indian Hockey is well-known. We will announce a suitable replacement soon to ensure the team's preparations continue as planned for the World Cup qualifiers," HI said in a statement. Sources said the decision was shocking since no one in the team had any idea till late Sunday when senior players had a meeting with the coach.

While former India coach Dutchman Sjoerd Marijne is being spoken about as one of the options, HI officials said nothing was finalised and there were a couple of names under consideration, a decision likely within a fortnight.

Mumbai teen prodigy Mhatre is making all the right noises

Dhruva Prasad
LUCKNOW

> Mhatre has become better after the stint with CSK. With Dhoni as your captain [in IPL 2025], you cannot ask for anyone better than him
> **PRASHANT**
> Mhatre's childhood coach

There is a compelling contradiction to the latest teen prodigy from Mumbai – Ayush Mhatre. He has taken to the demands of modern-day cricket like a duck to water but eschews the influence of today's obsessive use of social media.

"He is not into social media. He is not into it at all. All that he does in 24 hours is only practise and think about cricket," Mhatre's childhood coach Prashant Shetty told *The Hindu* a day after the 18-year-old smashed a second successive ton in the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here.

Across his two centuries, against Vidarbha and Andhra, Mhatre hit 17 sixes and etched his name in the record books as the youngest to score a hundred in each of the three formats.

Though Mhatre shot into the limelight recently owing to his T20 exploits, his strong red-ball fundamentals have helped him succeed. "When you are doing well in red-ball cricket, it speaks volumes of your temperament; your basics are good. I think he is suited for all three formats," Prashant said.

Mhatre is also blessed with an ecosystem that accepts failure as a byproduct of his natural game. Making his T20 debut for Chennai Super Kings, Mhatre cracked a 15-ball 32 to take the IPL by storm this year.

"There was a clear plan and a clear message given to him that you can play your game," Prashant explained, crediting the franchise for giving the youngster freedom.

With great potential comes greater responsibility, and Mhatre has deservedly been named India's captain for the u-19 Asia Cup in Dubai later this month. "He is not someone who expresses himself a lot. But as a captain, he needs to do that... he has become better after the stint with CSK. With Dhoni as your captain, you cannot ask for anyone better than him," Prashant said.

Mhatre 'is not into social media' and 'only thinks about cricket', says his childhood coach Prashant. UPCA

Amirul — standing out with his powerful drag-flicks

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Going for it: Amirul's efforts made sure Bangladesh gave the fancied teams a stiff fight. R. RAGU

Sporting a hairstyle that flares like a lion's mane, 21-year-old Amirul Islam cuts an unmistakable figure on the turf. However, at the 2025 FIH junior men's hockey World Cup here, it is not just his striking look that has turned heads – it is his impact on the game.

The leading drag-flicker of Bangladesh's junior team, Amirul has emerged as one of the tournament's biggest revelations.

Against powerhouse opponents Australia and South Korea, the junior World Cup debutant refused to fade quietly – thanks to Amirul, who produced back-to-back hattricks, propelling himself into the list of the competition's top scorers.

Head coach Siegfried Aikman can hardly hide his admiration. "He trains relentlessly," Aikman said. "In every session, he attempts numerous variations (around 50 to 100 each) in the morning and evening. He generates heavy topspin and finishes with tremendous wrist power. It's all about rhythm."

Amirul honed his technique at the country's premier sports institute, Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan (BKSP).

"As a BKSP student, I first played in the Independence Cup in 2019," he recalled. "That was my first real chance to drag-flick. I tried hard but couldn't score. But I just kept practising."

Now, the once-struggling teenager is one of Bangladesh's most promising young talents – and an admirer of Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh, one of the world's finest drag-flickers.

Drawn in the tough Pool-F, Bangladesh has so far lost to Australia (3-5) and drawn with South Korea (3-3) and its hopes of entering the knock-outs are as good as over.

Yet when Bangladesh lines up against heavyweight France on December 2 in its last group match, one thing is certain.

Amirul will step up again, armed with his fearless approach, refined technique and a drag-flick capable of rattling even the strongest defence.

Recognising excellence: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with some of the recipients. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

Ekalavya Awards given away

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presented the Ekalavya Award for sporting excellence, for the years 2022 and 2023, here on Monday.

In all, 30 athletes were handed the accolade which carries a reward of ₹4 lakh and a citation. The list included Priya Mohan (athletics), Mithun Manjunath (badminton), Mohammed Rahil Moshin (hockey), Aditi Ashok (golf), Ridhima Veerendra Kumar (swimming), K. Sai Prateek (badminton), Aneesh S. Gowda (swimming) and R. Sanjana (basketball) among others.

Lifetime achievements awards, Karnataka Kreeda Ratna awards (for traditional sports) and the Karnataka Kreeda Poshaka award (for private organisations which encourage sports) were also given away. On the occasion, the Chief Minister reiterated his government's promise from 2024 of conferring ₹6 crore cash prize for Olympic gold medallists, ₹4 crore for silver and ₹3 crore for bronze winners. He also promised a government job for every successful athlete.

Siddaramaiah also highlighted the announcement he had made in the 2025 budget of setting aside ₹10 lakh per annum per athlete for three years for 60 talented sportspersons to prepare for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"Karnataka has a population of close to 7 crore. Countries which have population as low as 1 crore win medals. Can't we win? Please try, and you will have our support and encouragement," he stated.